

***Pleurothallis inornata* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *inornatus*, "unadorned," referring to the simple flower-parts.

Inter species subgeneris *Ancipitiae* Luer species haec habitu parvo, petalis erectis, labello integro plano oblongo-ovato acuto differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots densely fasciculate, slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, sharply ancipitous, 3.5-6 cm long, up to 1.5 mm deep at the leaf, with 2-3 tubular bracts near and at the base. **Leaf** coriaceous, more or less spreading, ovate, acute, 2.75-3 cm long, 1-1.2 cm wide, the base rounded, shallowly cordate, sessile. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of solitary, successive, non-resupinate flowers borne from a reclining spathe 5-6 mm long at the base of the leaf; peduncles 2-3 mm long, within the spathe; floral bract 2-3 mm long; pedicel 3-4 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** translucent light brown, the middle sepal ovate, subacute, concave, 4.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, concave synsepal 4.24 mm long, 2.5 mm wide unexpanded, 4-veined, the obtuse apex minutely bifid; **petals** translucent yellow, erect, parallel to the dorsal sepal, linear-oblong, acute, 4 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** yellow, oblong-ovate, acute, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the disc flat with 3 slightly raised nerves, the base truncate, shallowly transversely concave at the attachment to the column-foot; **column** yellow, semiterete, 2 mm long, the anther subapical, exposed, the stigma subapical, the foot thick, pedestal-like.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Morona-Santiago: epiphytic in cloud forest north of Gualaquiza, alt. 1700 m, 17 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores & A. Embree 11873 (Holotype: MO); same area, alt. 1800 m, 31 Jan. 1989, S. Dalström & T. Höijer 1220 (MO).

This species, apparently endemic in a small area of southern Ecuador, is one of the smallest of the subgenus. The petals are held erect in the non-resupinate flower parallel to the margins of the dorsal sepal. Although this subgenus is noted for the bizarre lips, the lip of this species is simple as it is in *P. anceps* and *P. eumecocaulon*, but proportionately large, nearly filling the concavity of the synsepal.



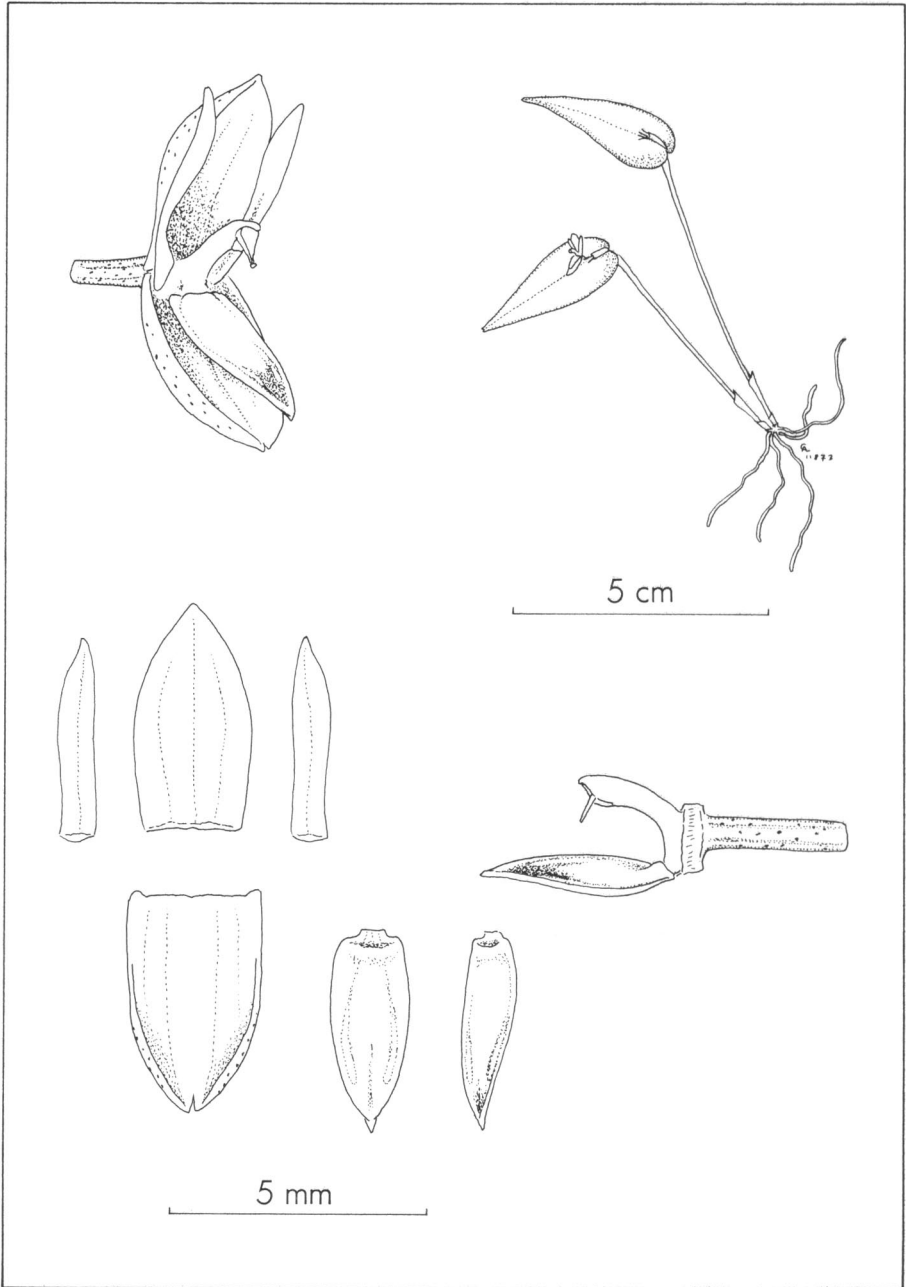


Plate 13. *Pleurothallis inomata* Luer & Hirtz