

**Pleurothallis instar** Luer, sp. nov.

*Pleurothallis eumecocaulo* Schltr. affinis sed statura florequae parviore partibus florum purpureis proportione latioribusque et disco labelli ecalloso notabilis.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fine, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 2-6 cm long, unifoliate, with 1-2 basal sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, tridenticulate, the base rounded, sessile, 3-4 cm long, 0.9-1.2 cm wide. Inflorescence a fascicle of single, long-pedicellate, small, red-purple flowers, produced successively from a thin, 5 mm spathe at the base of the leaf; peduncle about 2 cm long, pedicel 10-15 mm long, floral bract 3 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; dorsal sepal broadly ovate, acute, deeply concave, 4.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, heavily suffused and speckled with red-purple; lateral sepals completely connate into a synsepal similar to the dorsal sepal, the apex minutely bidentate, 4 mm long, 3 mm wide, 4-veined; petals narrowly ovate, acute, thick, minutely papular, spotted with dark purple, 4.75 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; lip thick, ovate, shortly acuminate, acute, minutely serrulate, the base broadly united to the column-foot, the disc slightly convex below the middle, shallowly concave at the middle, flat without callosity above the middle, 3 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, suffused and marked with deep purple; column stout, 1 mm long, with a short, thick foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *instar*, "image, likeness," in reference to the similarity of the plant to *Pleurothallis eumecocaulon* Schltr.

TYPE: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in cloud forest on Cerro Hornito, alt. ca. 1700 m, 15 Dec. 1976, C. Luer, A. Luer, R. L. Dressler, N. H. Williams & F. L. Stevenson 1389 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 155-76-80a, flowered in cult. 8 April 1977.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This little species is obviously closely allied to *Pleurothallis eumecocaulon* Schltr., but it is immediately distinguishable by the smaller stature and smaller purple flowers. The flower parts are proportionately wider, and the disc of the lip is flat, lacking any callus above the middle. The flowers of *P. eumecocaulon* are white, only occasionally spotted with purple, and the lip is convex or callously thickened above the middle. *Pleurothallis instar* occurs sympatrically with *P. eumecocaulon*. No intermediate forms have been observed.

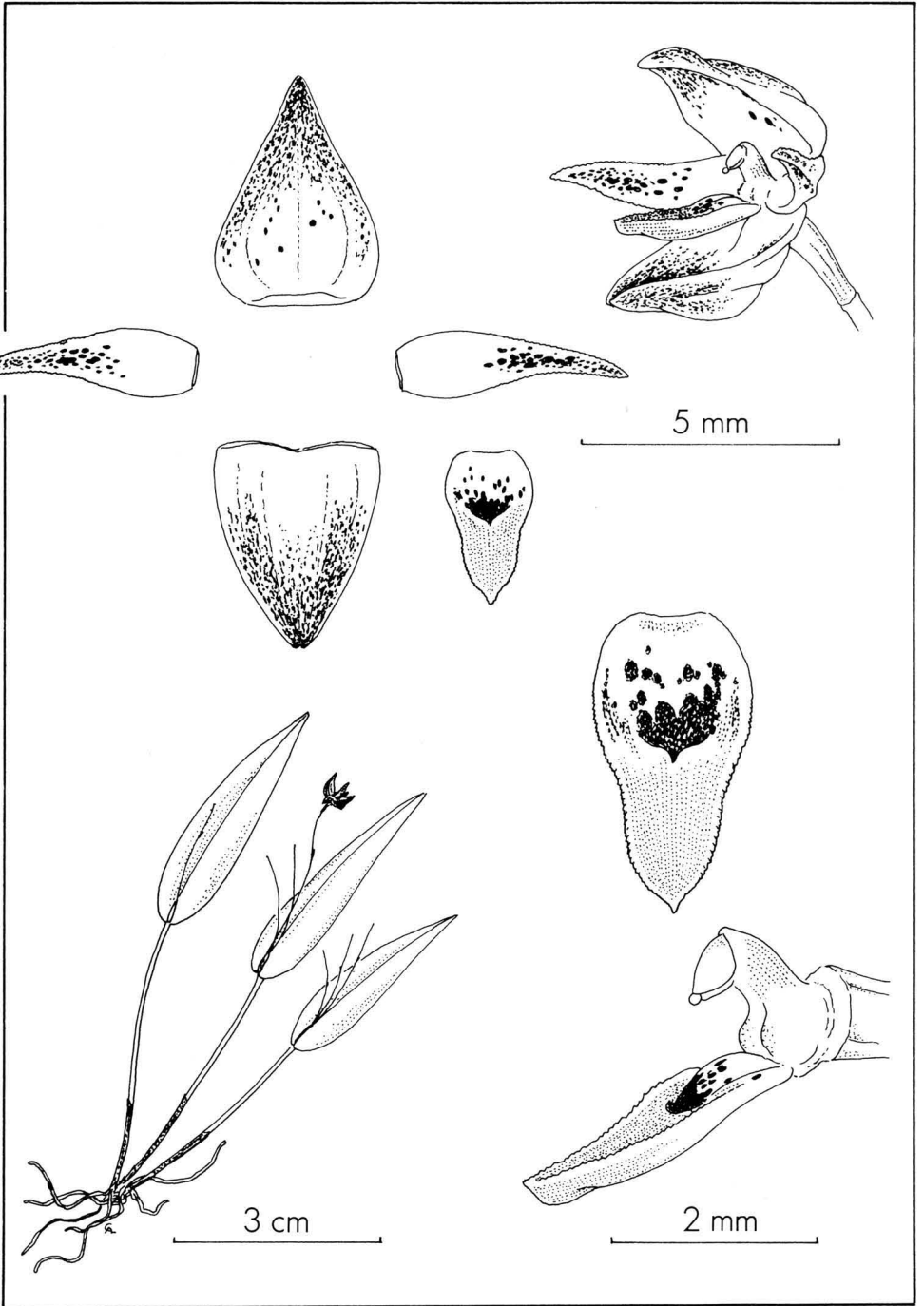


Figure 260. PLEUROTHALLIS INSTAR Luer