

Pleurothallis lacera Luer, sp. nov.

Herba parva caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis, folio crasso patente lineari anguste ovato acuminato base rotundata, floribus fasciculatis successivis atropurpureis, sepalo dorsali et synsepalo suborbiculatis profunde concavis abrupte acuminatis, petalis late ovatis acuminatis marginibus laciniatis, labello rubro carnosio suborbiculato abrupte acuminato marginibus laceris.

Plant small, caespitose, epiphytic to terrestrial; roots numerous, flexuous. Secondary stem slender, terete, ascending, 6-16 cm long, with a close tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others basally, unifoliate. Leaf spreading, deep green, coriaceous, narrowly ovate to linear, acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, base broadly cuneate to rounded, 5-6 cm X 8-11 mm. Inflorescence fasciculate, flowers maroon, produced singly and successively from a spathe 5-7 mm long at the base of the leaf; floral bract and pedicel each 3-4 mm long; ovary 3.5 mm long; dorsal sepal broadly elliptical to suborbicular, deeply concave, apex abruptly acuminate, acute, 5 X 4 mm, 3-veined; lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovate, concave synsepal, abruptly acuminate, 5 X 5 mm, 4-veined; petals broadly elliptical, acuminate, acute, 4 X 3 mm, margin lacinate; lip red, broadly elliptical to suborbicular, apex abruptly acuminate, acute, base concave below the column, channeled centrally, fleshy thickened on both sides, margins coarsely lacerate; column red, stout, 2 X 1.5 mm.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *lacerus*, "torn," referring to the irregularly lacerated margins of the lip and petals.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: terrestrial on a road embankment about 2 km from the pass of the new road between Quito and Santo Domingo, alt. 3200 m, 16 Aug. 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 550 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

Dense caespitose masses of this species occur at cold, misty, high elevations. The slender, clustered stems bear deep green, narrow, rigid, thickened leaves each deflexed about 90° in the same direction. From the bases of the leaves the deep wine-red flowers appear one to three at a time and each faces out toward the apex. The broad, shortly lacerate petals protude from under the deeply concave dorsal sepal. A comparatively large, red, conspicuously lacerate, heart-shaped lip fills the concavity of the synsepal.

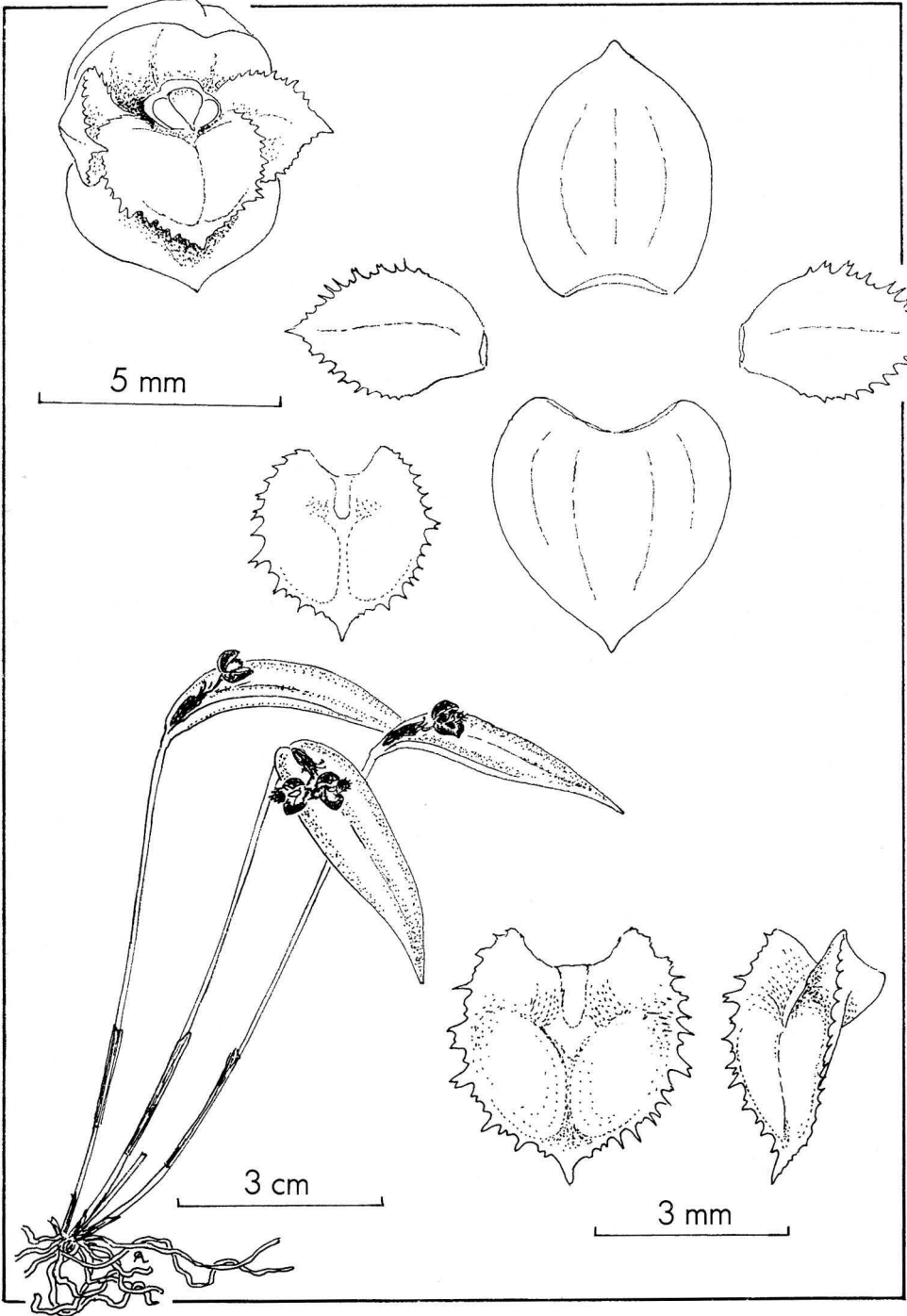


Figure 59. *PLEUROTHALLIS LACERA* Luer