

**Pleurothallis lemniscifolia** Luer, sp. nov.

Herba epiphytica caespitosa mediocris, caulibus secundariis longis gracillimis teretibus declinatis unifoliatis, foliis pendentibus anguste linearibus attenuatis longissimis, floribus brunneolis solitariis successivis, sepalo dorsali et synsepalo ovatis obtusis, petalis anguste falcatis denticulatis, labello olivaceo pubescenti oblongo obtuso marginibus revolutis.

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, medium-sized; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems declining, very slender, terete, 10-30 cm long, with a closely fitting tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, unifoliolate. Leaf pendent, narrowly linear, attenuate, ribbon-like, flexible, 15-30 cm long and 8-11 mm wide, margins more or less revolute, base rounded to subcordate, sessile. Flower brown, bilabiate, solitary, successive, from a spathe 10-17 mm long at the base of the leaf; pedicel 5-8 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; dorsal sepal light yellowish brown with darker brown stripes, elliptical, obtuse, 11 × 6 mm, 5-veined; lateral sepals united into an ovate synsepal, subacute, 10 × 6 mm, 6-veined; petals brown, linear-falcate, apex acute, thickened, margins denticulate-erose, 7.5 × 0.5 mm, 1-veined; lip olive-brown with a white pubescence, red-brown toward the base, oblong, obtuse, margins revolute, 6 × 3 mm; column short, 1.5 × 1.5 mm, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *lemniscus*, "a pendent, or award-winning ribbon," and *folium*, "a leaf," referring to the long, pendent, ribbon-like leaves of the species.

TYPE: ECUADOR: PICHINCHA: epiphytic near km 80 between Quito and Santo Domingo, alt. 1700 m, 17 Aug. 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 589 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

This unusual member of the section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae* is distinguished by its extraordinarily long and narrow, ribbon-like leaves which dangle from the ends of long, slender, wire-like stems. The leaves are sulcate with a prominent midrib beneath, which is flanked by the moderately involuted margins. Young leaves are essentially straight, but older ones often twist or curl. At the base of the leaf, a brown flower is produced intermittently from a comparatively large spathe. The sepals are not remarkable for the section; the petals are falcate and irregularly dentate; the oblong lip is olive-brown and covered by a mat of short white hairs.

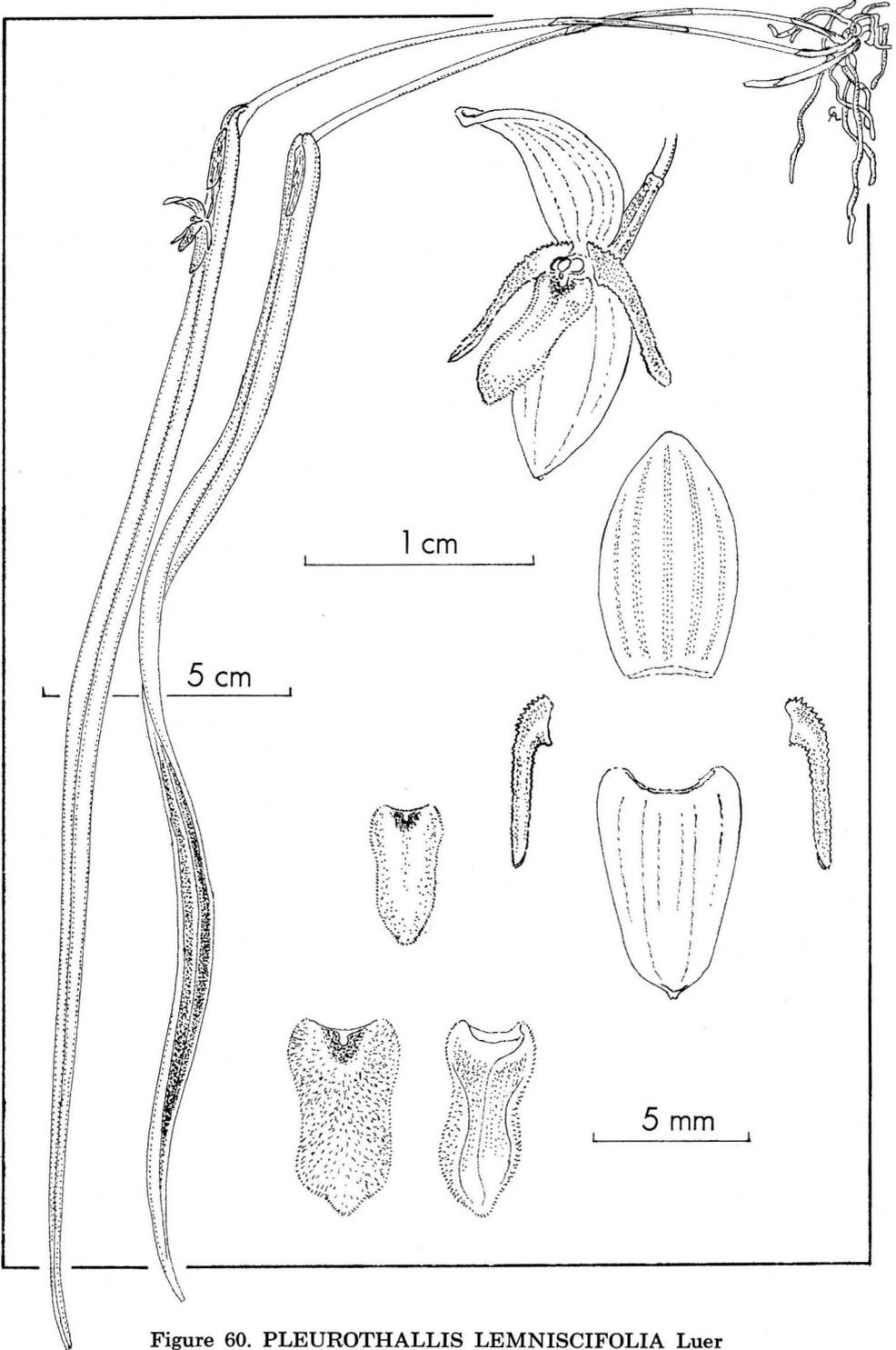


Figure 60. *PLEUROTHALLIS LEMNISCIFOLIA* Luer