

***Pleurothallis madsenii* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named in honor of J. E. Madsen who collected this species.

Species haec *P. ramificanti* Luer affinis, sed floribus multiminoribus sepalis carnosis, petalis carnosis ad basim latoribus, et labello ovoideo-trilobato, lobis lateralibus brevioribusque latoribus differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose below, prolific above; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, apparently only once superposed, 12-16 cm long below, 4-5 cm long above, with 1-2 thin, tubular sheaths above and below the middle and another at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, 5-5.5 cm long, 1-1.5 cm wide, the base sessile, cuneate. Inflorescence a subcongested, simultaneously many-flowered raceme, 5-6 cm long including the peduncle ca. 1 cm long, subtended by a spathe 10-12 mm long at the base of the leaf; floral bracts infundibular, 3 mm long; pedicels 8 mm long below to 2 mm long above; ovary 1 mm long; sepals fleshy, carinate, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, concave, 3.3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovate, concave, acute synsepal, 3.2 mm long, 1.75 mm wide unexpanded, 2-veined; petals thick, fleshy, terete, narrowly triangular, acute, 3 mm long, 0.6 mm wide at the base, 1-veined; lip thickly trilobed, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, with the middle lobe broadly obtuse to round, shallowly concave, the lateral lobes antrorse, broadly triangular, obtuse, 0.5 mm long, the base broadly truncate, attached to the base of the column; column broad, terete, 2-3 mm long, footless, the anther and the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: Loja: Parqué Nacional Podocarpus, Cerro Toledo, alt. 2500-3400 m, 30 Oct. 1989, J. E. Madsen 86309 (Holotype: AAU; Isotype: QCA), C. Luer illustr. 17232.

This species is known from a single collection from southern Ecuador. It is similar to the frequent, prolific and climbing *P. ramificans*, but it differs from the latter in having erect ramicauls with only one or two erect, superposed stems. The racemes are shorter and the flowers are much smaller and fleshy.

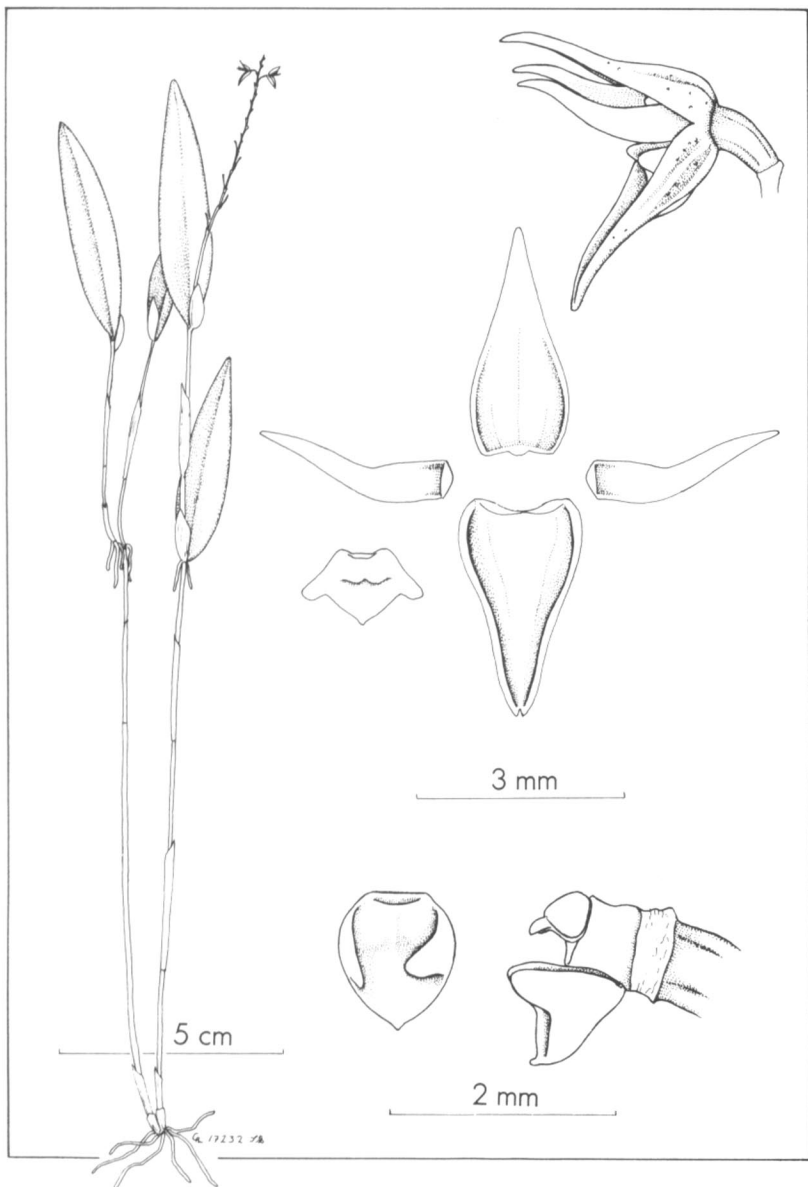


Fig. 17. *Pleurothallis madsenii*