

**Pleurothallis magnifica** Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. secundae* Poepp. & Endl. affinis sed floribus majoribus maculatis petalis ovatis et labello geniculato transverse oblongo distinguitur.

Plant large, terrestrial (also epiphytic?), caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems stout, suberect, 40-60 cm tall, with a close tubular sheath below the middle and 2 others near the base. Leaf more or less arching, horizontal to pendent, coriaceous, obovate, 15-25 cm long, 5-8 cm wide, the apex acuminate, acute, the base cuneate to the subpetiolate base. Inflorescence racemose, 1-3 loosely flowered, flaccid racemes 8-12 cm long, lying upon the leaf, from a 2-3 cm long spathe at the base of the leaf; flowers 4-7, large, non-resupinate; floral bract 8-11 mm long; pedicel 11-20 mm long; ovary 8-10 mm long; sepals glabrous, dull translucent white with large purple spots, the middle sepal ovate, narrowly obtuse, 20 mm long, 7.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals uppermost, connate into a deeply concave synsepal 19 mm long, 16 mm wide, the apex rounded, minutely bifid; petals purple with scattered unpigmented spots, ovate, acute, 17 mm long, 7 mm wide; lip light green, dotted with purple, transversely oblong, geniculate, 4.5 mm long, 6 mm wide, with erect, rounded, lateral margins, the apex transverse, minutely erose, the disc with a pair of low, rounded calli near the middle; column stout, 2.5 mm long, footless.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *magnificus*, "magnificent," in allusion to the handsome appearance of the plant.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *magnificus*, "magnífico", en alusión a la bonita apariencia de la planta.

TYPE: *COLOMBIA*: CAUCA: Munic. of San Sebastián, terres-

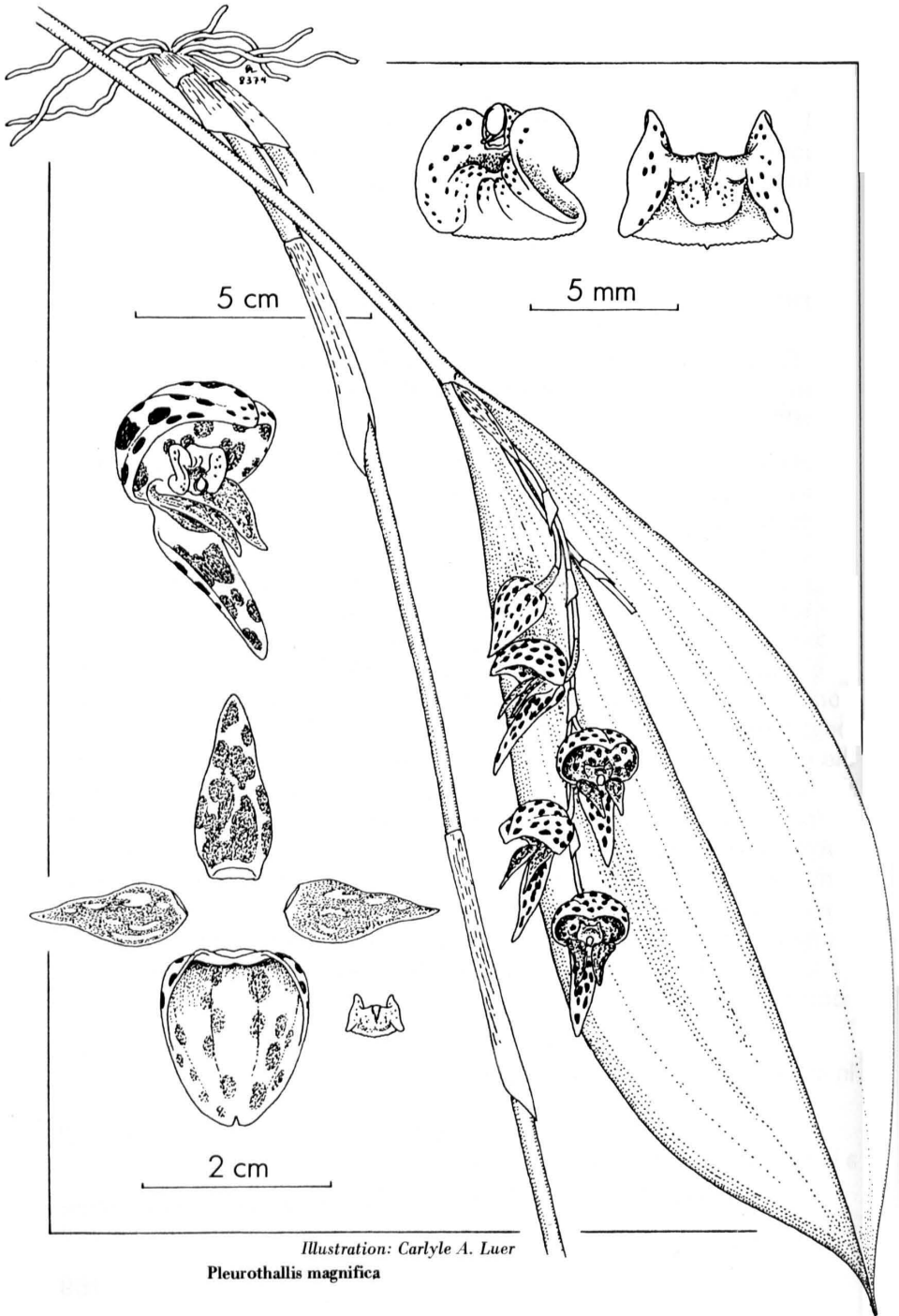


Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer  
*Pleurothallis magnifica*

trial in cloud forest, Páramo de Barbillas, alt. 3,150 m, 13 Nov. 1982, C. Luer & R. Escobar 8374 (Holotype: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Colombia, Central Cordillera.

Although the description of this spectacular species approaches that of *P. secunda*, *P. magnifica* may be distinguished by the large, spotted flowers, ovate petals, and a geniculate, transversely oblong lip. Only one huge specimen of this species was discovered growing in the deep humus of a wet, mossy, cloud forest. In the surrounding trees were numerous plants of *Masdevallia hylodes* Luer & Escobar and *M. pachyantha* Rchb. f. as well as an abundance of other pleurothallid. The sloped of the terrain was only slight, but the long, sturdy stems of *P. magnifica* all leaned downhill with the large leaves held more or less horizontally with the apices curving downward. Most of the racemes of large colorful flowers were lying upon the leaves, but where crowded, the racemes were draped over the edges.

Aunque la descripción de esta espectacular especie se aproxima a la del *P. secunda* Poepp & Endl., *P. magnifica* puede distinguirse por las flores grandes, moteadas, pétalos ovados y labelo geniculado, transversalmente oblongo. Únicamente un enorme espécimen de esta especie se descubrió creciendo en humus profundo de un bosque húmedo, musgoso, nublado. En los árboles alrededor había numerosas plantas de *Masdevallia hylodes* Luer & Escobar y *M. pachyantha* Rchb. f. lo mismo que abundaban otras pleurotalideas. La pendiente del terreno era ligera pero los largos y robustos tallos del *P. magnifica* todos se inclinaban hacia la pendiente con las grandes hojas en posición más o menos horizontal con los ápices curvados hacia abajo. La mayoría de los grandes racimos de coloridas flores yacían sobre las hojas, pero aunque apiñados, los racimos colgaban sobre los bordes.