

***Pleurothallis pastacensis* C. Luer, sp. nov.**

Habitu *P. alexandrae* Schltr. similis sed differt rhizoma repenti foliis latioribus floribus pluribus pedunculis brevioribus pubescentia caespitosa petalis oblongis lobo antico labelli verrucoso.

Plant large, epiphytic, shortly repent; rhizome thick, about 1 cm long between secondary stems; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems stout, terete, slightly compressed above, 15-23 cm long, concealed by 4-5 loose, scarious sheaths, frequently torn or shed, unifoliate. Leaves coriaceous, rigid, oblong to narrowly elliptical, subacute to obtuse, the base cuneate, sessile, 18-25 × 5-6.5 cm, longitudinally veined. Inflorescence fasciculate, the flowers dark purple, fleshy, usually 4-5 produced simultaneously, from a spathe 3-4 cm long, sometimes shed, in the axil of the leaf; peduncle 1-1.5 cm long; floral bract shortly pubescent, 6 mm long; pedicel pubescent, 3-4 mm long; ovary pubescent, 3 mm long; sepals pubescent externally, the hairs arranged in tufts, glabrous within; dorsal sepal obovate, subacute, intensely suffused and spotted with purple on yellowish within, 17 × 6 mm, 5-veined; lateral sepals lightly connate to near the middle, together obtuse to rounded, 14 × 9 mm, each 3-veined; petals fleshy, oblong, obtuse, 6 × 2 mm, with 3 purple veins on yellow; lip elliptical with acuminate, forward projecting, uncinately lateral lobes below the middle, the middle lobe rounded and verrucose, the base bilobed and broadly hinged to the column-foot; disc with a high, inverted U-shaped callus near the base and extending forward between the lateral lobes as a pair of keels with a channel between, and a thick pair of toothed lamellae extending from the lateral lobes onto the middle lobe, 5.5 × 3 mm; column broadly winged, spotted with purple on yellow, 4.5 mm long, anther red, with a patch of bristles along the upper margin.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the Province of Pastaza of Ecuador where the species was found.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: PASTAZA: epiphytic in felled tree 20 km east of Puyo, alt. 500 m, 19 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer & P. Taylor 949 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Ecuador.

This species from the Oriente of Ecuador is closely related to *Pleurothallis alexandrae* Schltr. known from Costa Rica to Venezuela, but *P. pastacensis* differs in the following features. The stout rhizome is shortly but distinctly repent, mature leaves are proportionately wider, several flowers are produced simultaneously on short peduncles (instead of singly and successively on long peduncles), the pubescent hairs of the purple flowers are arranged in tufts or patches, the petals are oblong, and the lip, which is very similar, is broad and not constricted in front of the hooked lateral lobes, and the anterior lobe and its calli are verrucose.

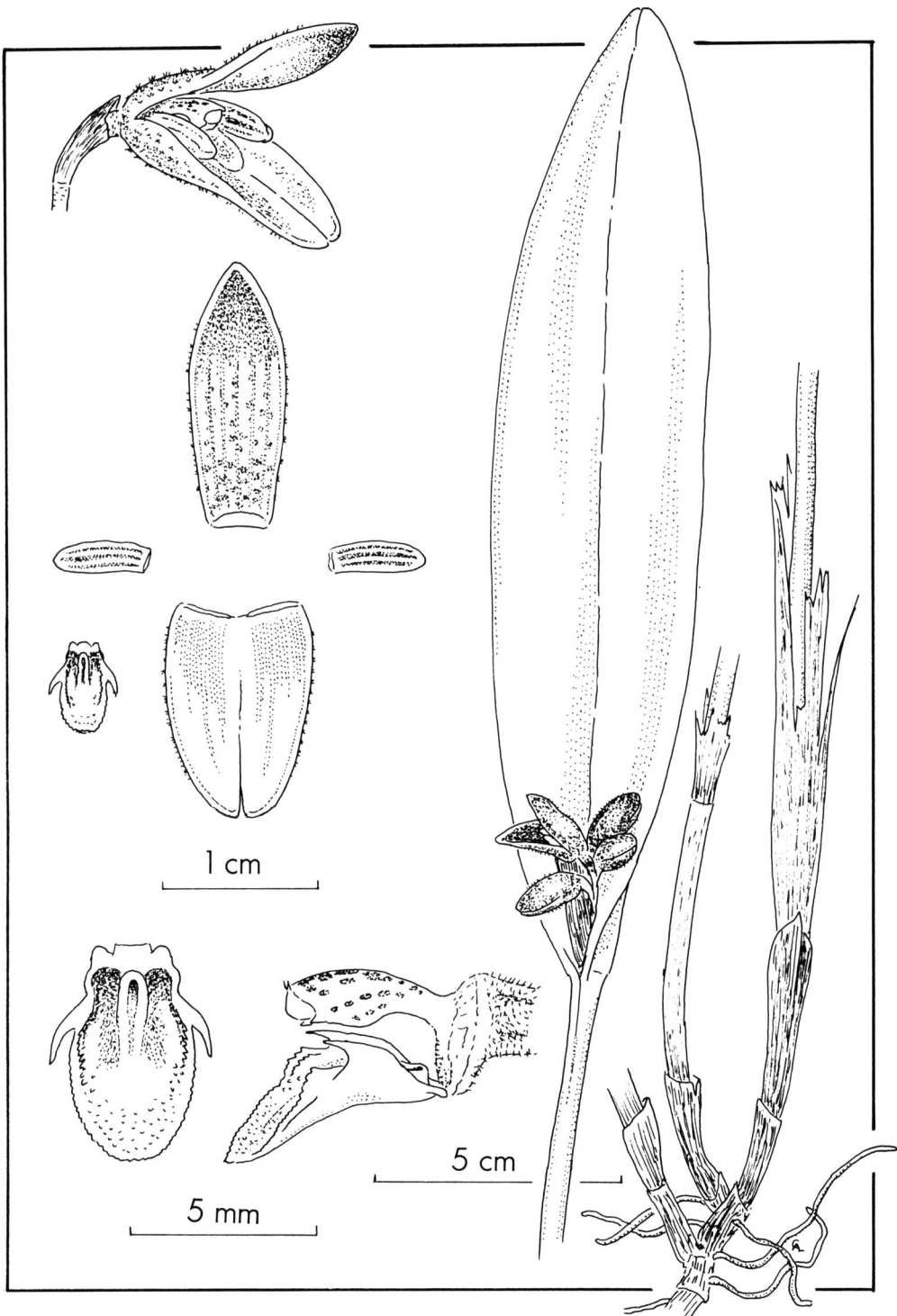


Figure 181. *PLEUROTHALLIS PASTACENSIS* C. A. Luer