

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

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis, folio deflexo maculato rigido concavo attenuato acuto base profunde cordato, spathe erecta conspicua, flore solitario successivo inverso atrorubro, sepalis petalisque obtusis hirsutis, labello subrhomboideo apice rotundato verruculoso minute eroso, lobis lateralibus triangularibus acutis erectis, disco papilloso.

Plant medium to large in size, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 15-38 cm long, with a closely vested tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, unifoliolate. Leaf deflexed, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, rigidly concave and curved, attenuate, acute, tridenticulate, the base deeply cordate with overlapping auricles, suffused and indistinctly blotched with dull purple, 12-15 X 3-3.75 cm. Inflorescence fasciculate, a single, inverted, widely spread, red flower produced successively from an erect, conduplicate spathe, 11-15 mm long, at the base of the leaf; floral bract about 5 mm long, and the pedicel, about 12 mm long, both hidden within the spathe; ovary 7 mm long; middle sepal broadly ovate to suborbicular, obtuse, pilose along the margins and near the apex, 9 X 8 mm; lateral sepals connate into an obovate, rounded, retuse lamina, minutely papillose and pilose within, 8 X 5 mm; petals obovate-spatulate, obtuse, minutely papillose, hirsute near the margins, 6 X 3.5 mm; lip uppermost, subrhomboid, the apex round, minutely verrucose with a minutely erose margin, lateral lobes just below the middle, erect, triangular, acute, the base concave on the end, with a pair of mammillate callosities flanking a short median groove, the disc papillose, 3.5 X 5 mm between the spread lateral lobes; column stout, 2 X 2 mm, footless.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *peculiaris* in reference to the many features not held in common with other members of the section.

TYPE: PANAMA: VERACUAS: epiphytic in the cloud forest near the continental divide above Santa Fe, alt. ca. 700 m, Sept. 1976, C. Luer & R. L. Dressler 1142 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); Dressler 5433 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Although obviously a member of the cordate-leaved section, this species has digressed considerably down its own evolutionary paths. Almost every feature is peculiarly modified from the usual forms.

Juvenile leaves are erect and narrowly ovate with attenuated bases. Mature leaves are acutely deflexed and rigidly concave with overlapping basal lobes and a long, tapering apex gradually curving upward. The dull green is irregularly mottled with purple. From a prominent spathe emerge the non-resupinate, dark red flowers. A dense matting of hairs grows on the sepals and petals. The warty lip is furnished with a pair of erect, pointed lateral lobes, a most unusual feature for the section.

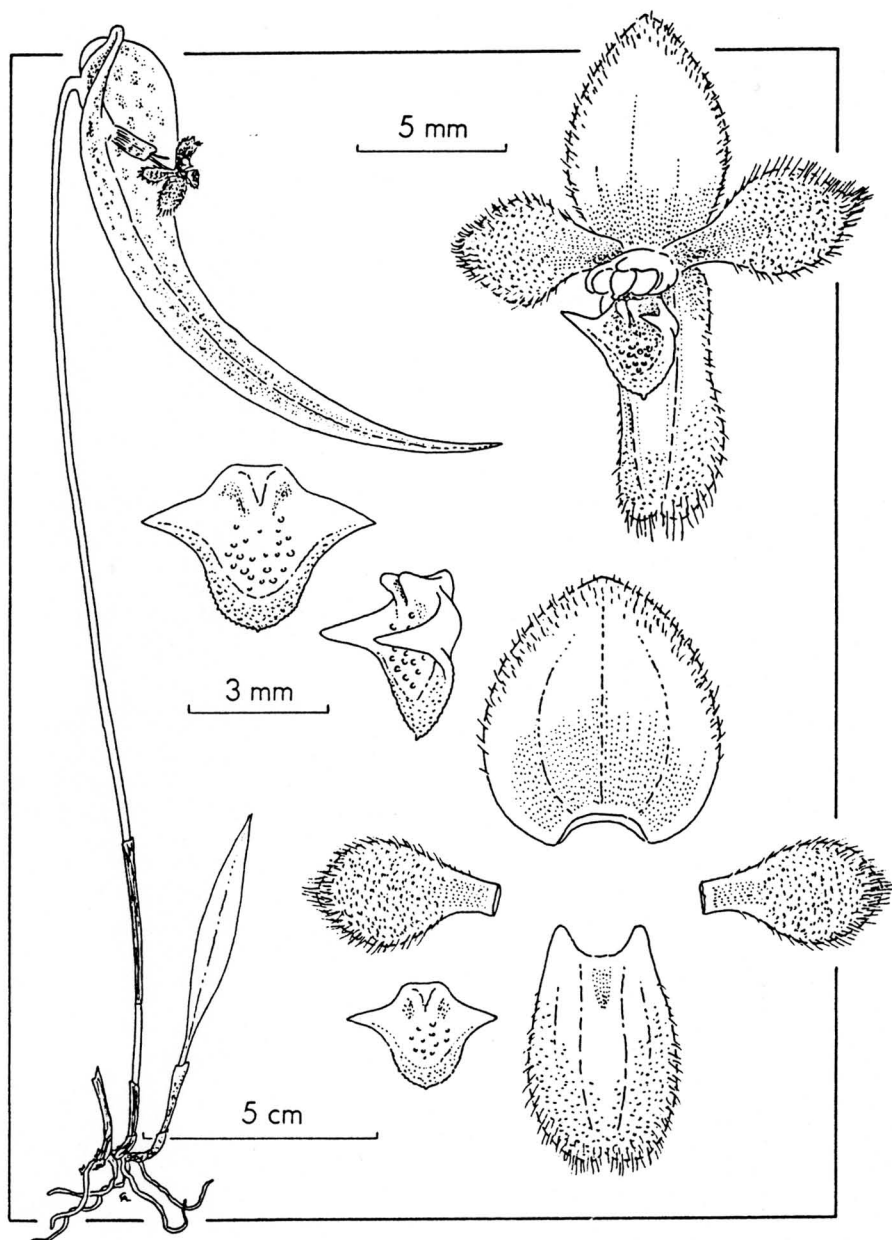


Figure 182. *PLEUROTHALLIS PECULIARIS* C. A. Luer