

**Pleurothallis pseudopogon** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *pseudopogon*, "a false beard," referring to the blade of the lip.

Species haec *P. habenulae* Luer & Escobar affinis, sed sepalis intus pubescentibus cum synsepalo infra medium convexo, petalis anguste oblongis et labelli lamina obovata fimbriata differt.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 10-18 cm long, with a closely fitting tubular sheath below the middle and 2-3 others at the base. **Leaf** erect to more or less spreading, coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, 5-7 cm long, 2-2.5 cm wide, cuculate below into the sessile base. **Inflorescence** a single flower produced successively, borne by a slender peduncle 4 cm long, from a spathe 7-8 mm long at the base of the leaf; floral bracts infundibular, 7 mm long; pedicels 5 mm long; ovary 5 mm long; **sepals** translucent, mottled with purple, finely pubescent within, the dorsal sepal elliptical-ovate, concave, subacute to obtuse, 10.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, subacute synsepal, concave above the middle, convex below the middle, 11 mm long, 7 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** brown, densely short-pubescent, ciliate, narrowly oblong-ovate, acute, 10.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** brown, cellular glandular-pubescent, the blade obovate, subacute, minutely lacerate, 6.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, acutely deflexed from a claw 2 mm long beneath the column; **column** semiterete, 3 mm long, footless, the anther and stigma apical.

ECUADOR: **Carchi**: Bolívar, above La Paz, south road, alt. 3300 m, 18 Feb. 1998, *C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & J. del Hierro 18752* (Holotype: MO).

This species, known from a single locality in northern Ecuador, is allied to *P. habenula*, which occurs nearby as well as in southern Colombia. It is distinguished from the latter by larger flowers, a synsepal convex below the middle; narrowly oblong, acute petals; and an obovate, fringed blade of the lip.

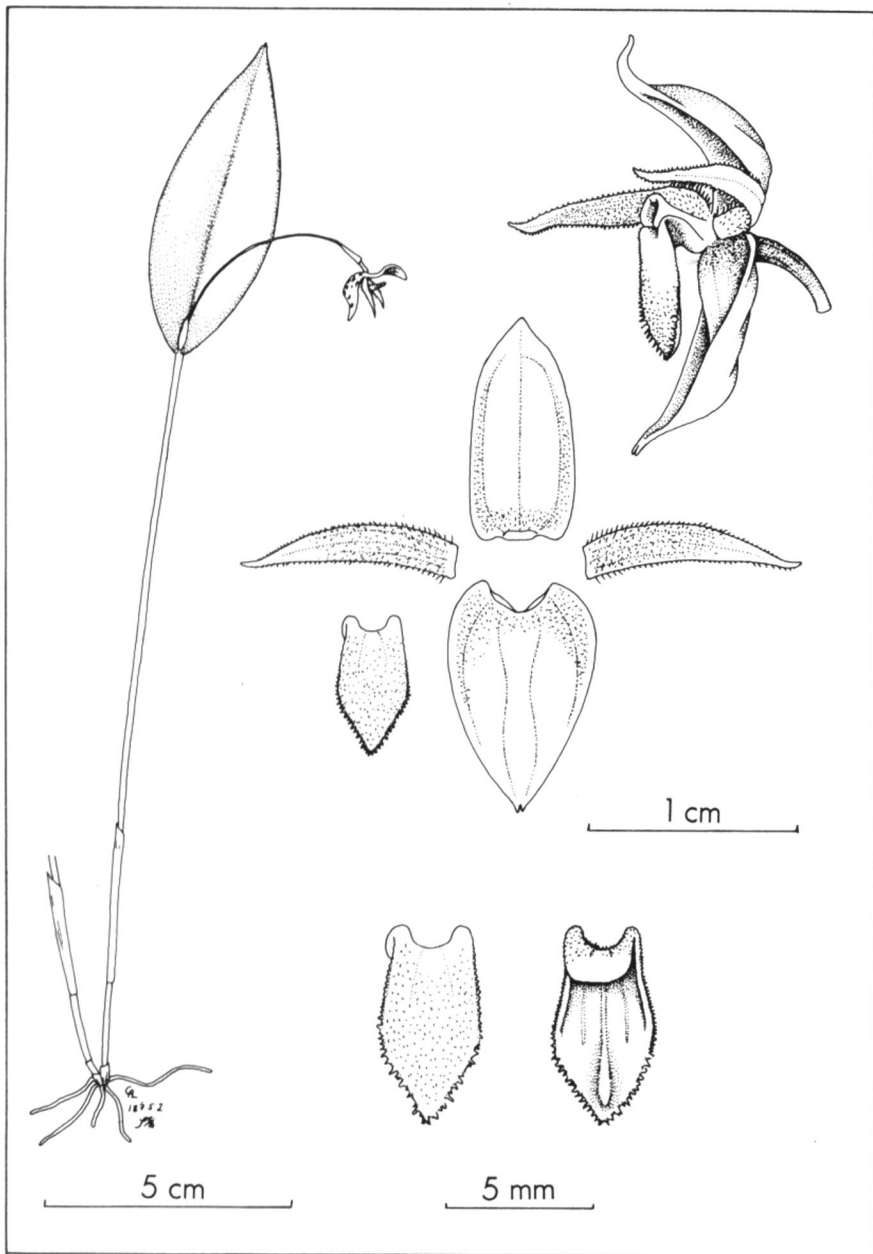


Fig. 39. *Pleurothallis pseudopogon*