

Pleurothallis quaternaria Luer, sp. nov.

Ety: From the Latin *quaternarius*, "with four parts," referring to the nearly equal sepals and petals.

Planta mediocris, foliis ovatis acutis, floribus solitariis successivis illis *P. rowleei* Ames persimilis, sepalo dorsali synsepalo petalisque plus minusve amplitudinis distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, round in cross section, 11-15 cm long, with a close, tubular sheath above the base and another at the base. **Leaf** coriaceous, sessile, ovate, acute, 6-10 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of solitary, successive flowers borne from a prostrate spathe 5-8 mm long, at the base of the leaf; peduncles 20-25 mm long; floral bract 4 mm long; pedicel 3.5-5 mm long; ovary 3.5 mm long; **sepals** rose-purple, glabrous, the dorsal sepal tan, ovate, acute, concave below middle, 15 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into a similar synsepal, 14 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, 4-veined; petals rose-purple, ovate, oblique, acute, minutely ciliate, 12 mm long, 4 mm wide, 5-veined; lip purple, glabrous, triangular-sagittate, acute, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, the basal angles erect, rounded, the disc slightly concave between a pair of indistinct calli over the veins, with a glenion above the base, the base subtruncate, thick, reflexed, hinged to the base of the column; column semiterete, 2 mm long, the anther and bilobed stigma apical, the foot rudimentary.

COLOMBIA: **Valle del Cauca**: without collection data, flowered in cultivation at Orquídeas del Valle, 12 March 1997, *C. Luer 18418* (Holotype: MO).

This species is closely related to *P. rowleei* Ames, but it is distinguished by the inflorescence that is single-flowered instead of racemose. The flowers are also very similar, but those of *P. quaternaria* are distinguished by the slightly larger, multi-veined petals that are about as long as the sepals.

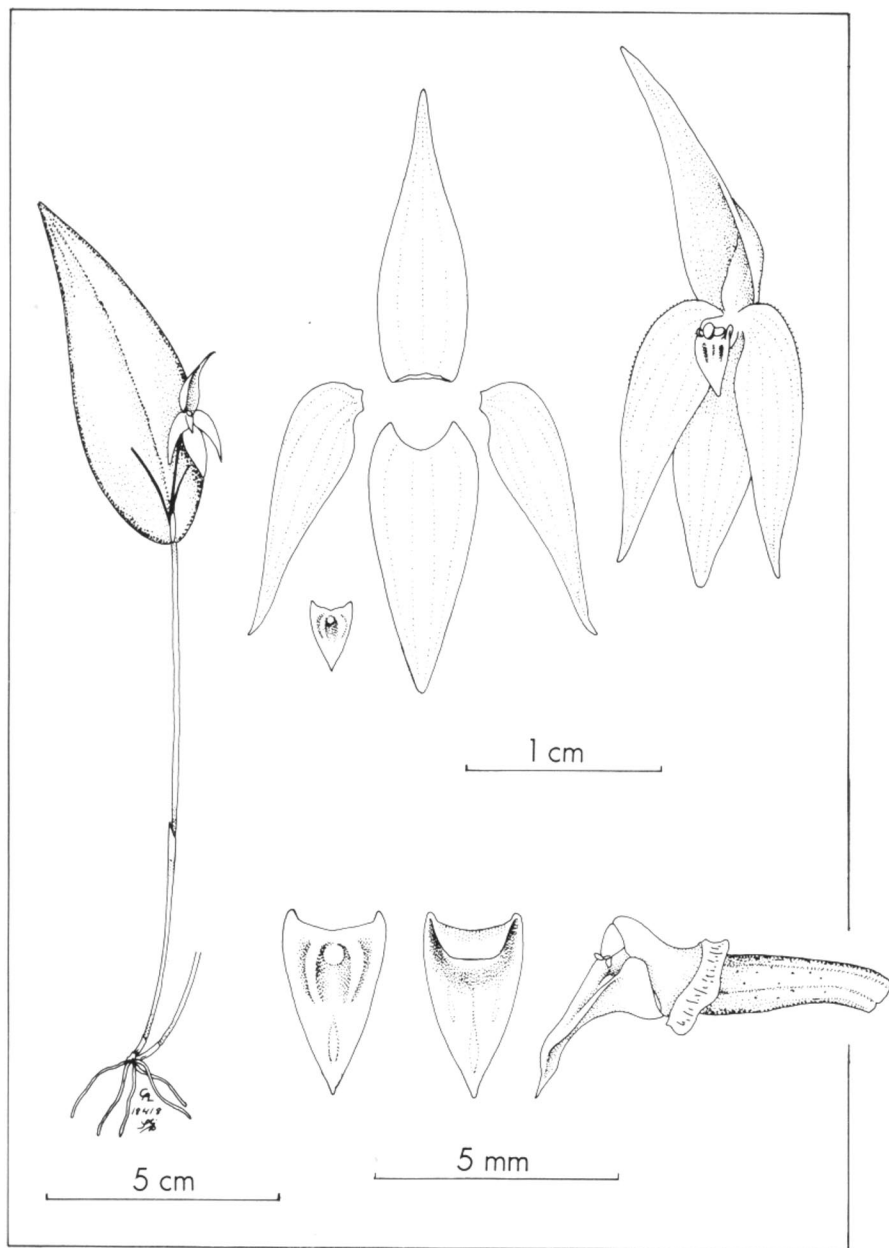


Fig. 41. *Pleurothallis quaternaria*