

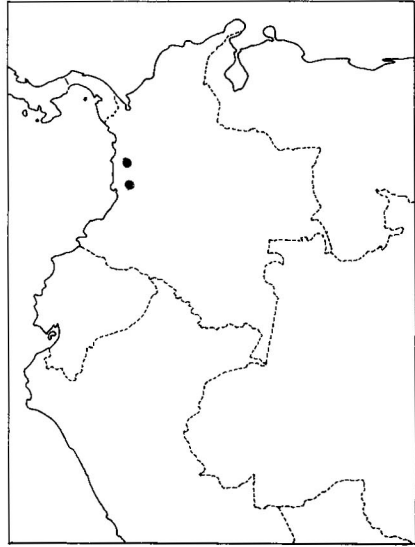
Pleurothallis silverstonei Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named in honor of Philip A. Silverstone-Sopkin, of the herbarium of Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia, co-discoverer of this species.

Inter species subgeneris *Scopulae* Luer, statura grandis, ramicauli folio elliptico longe decurrenti, ramicauli usque ad medium folii immerso, usque ad apicem liberi, pedunculis dense fasciculatis, sepalo dorsali ovato concavo acuminato, synsepalo ovoideo concavo ad basim saccato, petalis ellipticis acuminatis, labello calceolari acuto ad basim saccato distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** stout, erect, compressed near the apex, 10-25 cm long below the leaf, with a close tubular sheath on the lower third and 2-3 other tubular sheaths at the base, immersed above in the lower half of the leaf, then free for 4-9 cm. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, shortly acuminate, 7-15 cm long, 3.5-6.5 cm wide, the base cuneate and decurrent onto the ramicaul, with the vascular bundle of the inflorescence emerging near the middle, then free for 4-9 cm. **Inflorescence** a dense fascicle of numerous, single-flowered peduncles 5-15 mm long, subtended by a spathe 6-7 mm long, the flowers produced intermittently; floral bracts tubular, 5 mm long; pedicels 10-20 mm long; ovary 3.5 mm long; **sepals** white, occasionally with yellow dots, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave in the lower half, the apex acute, lightly acuminate, 9.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide unexpanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovoid, concave synsepal, 10 mm long, 2.5 mm wide unexpanded, 4-veined, narrowly obtuse at the apex, saccate at the base; **petals** white, ovate, acute, acuminate, 8.5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, ovoid-subpanduriform, acute, 6 mm long, 1.5 mm wide unexpanded, the margins rounded and erect below the middle with an obscure fold toward the base, the disc with a pair of low calli above the middle, the base deeply saccate, solidly connate behind the bulbous base of the column; **column** semiterete, 2 mm long, prominently bulbous below the middle, without a foot, the anther, rostellum and stigma apical.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Valle del Cauca: Munic. El Cairo, Cerro del Inglés, Serranía de los Paraguas, epiphytic in primary cloud forest, alt. 2400 m, 28 Dec. 1986, *P. A. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, R. T. González, I. Cabrera & D. Garcés* 2667 (Holotype: CUVC; Isotype: MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 16303; same locality, 3 Jan. 1987, *P. A. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, R. T. González, I. Cabrera, D. Garcés & A. Henao* 2905 (CUVC, MO); same locality, 1 Apr. 1988, *P. A. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, R. Eriksson et al.* 3949 (CUVC, MO). Dept. of Chocó: Munic. of San José del Palmar, Cerro del Torrá, epiphytic in elfin forest, alt. 2500 m, 14 Aug. 1988, financed by the National Science Foundation, grant 3884-88, *P. A. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, R. T. González, J. E. Ramos, L. H. Ramos & A. Henao* 4378 (CUVC, MO); same locality, 18 Aug. 1988, financed by the National Science Foundation, grant 3884-88, *P. A. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, R. T. González, J. E. Ramos, L. H. Ramos & A. Henao* 4551 (CUVC, MO).



Recently this large species of subgenus *Scopula* has been found several times in two localities on the western slopes of the Colombian Andes. Apparently it has never been collected before.

The ramicaul is embedded within the lower half of a large, elliptical leaf, then the vascular bundle of the inflorescence emerges and is free-standing to near the apex of the leaf. At the tip of the free bundle a densely fasciculate mass of peduncles and pedicels accumulates. The flowers are produced singly and successively. The flowers are most similar to those of *P. penicillata* Luer, the synsepal and lip of both species being saccate at the base. The lip of *P. silverstonei* is considerably larger with rounded, erect lateral margins.

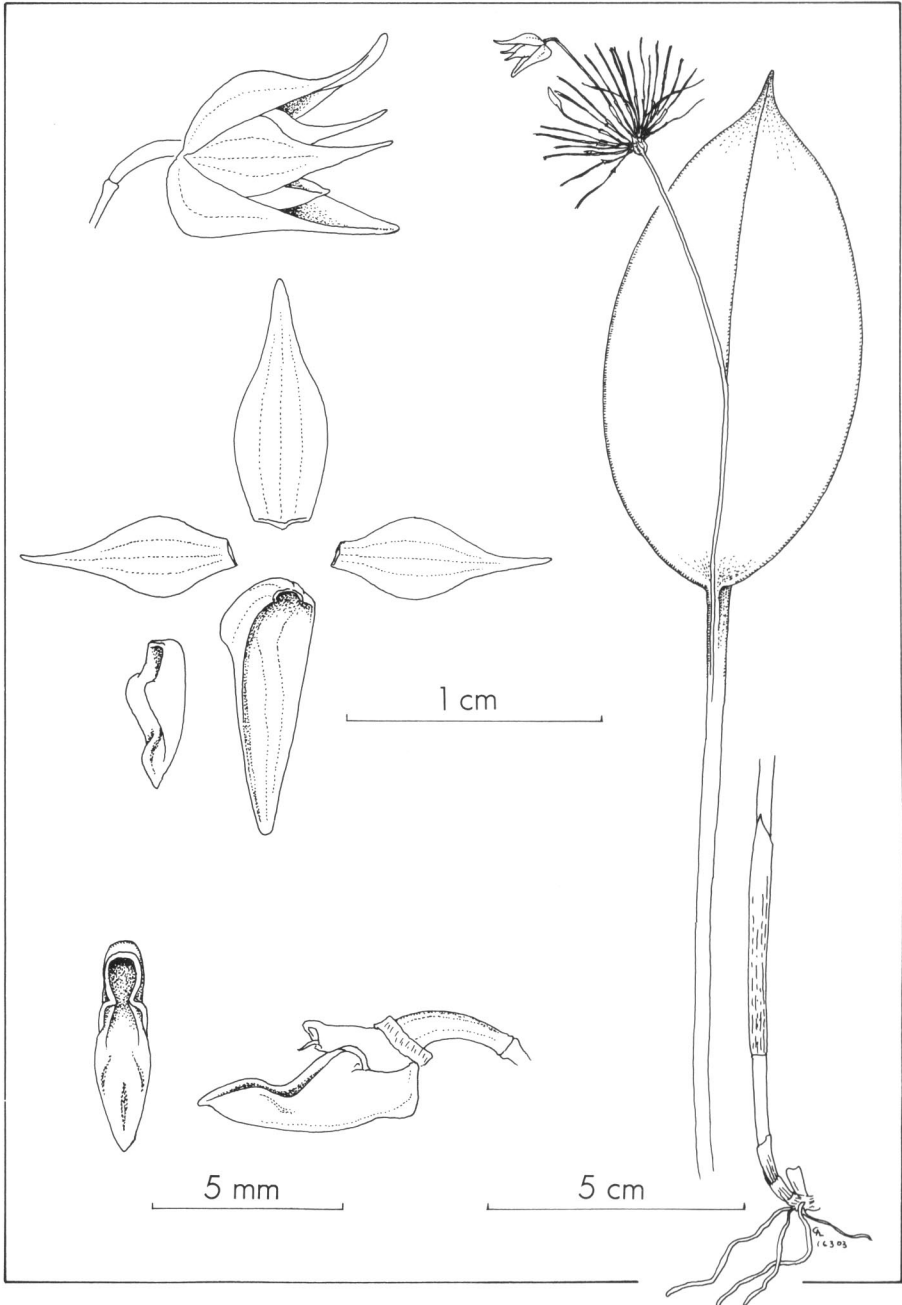


Plate 8. *Pleurothallis silverstonei* Luer