

**Pleurothallis stevensonii** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus terebibus, foliis ovatis acuminatis acutis mucronatis base rotundata sessili, floribus fasciculatis longipedicellatis paucifloris, sepalo dorsali et synsepalo ovatis concavis apice anguste acuminato, petalis carnosis anguste linearibus acuminatis, labello indistincte trilobato lobis lateralibus rotundatis incurvatis lobo mediano anguste acuminato apiculato disco transversim carinato.

Plant small, caespitose, epiphytic to terrestrial; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stems ascending, very slender, terete, 5-12 cm long, with a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base, unifoliate, occasionally prolific. Leaf ovate, abruptly acuminate, acute, tridentate, the central mucro elongate, base rounded, sessile, 25-35 × 15-22 mm. Inflorescence a few-flowered fascicle of erect, long-pedicellate, single, widely spreading flowers, from a spathe 5 mm long at the base of the leaf; peduncle capillary, about 2.5 cm long, pedicel about 1.5 cm long, floral bract tubular, 3 mm long, ovary 2.5 mm long; dorsal sepal yellow-green, ovate and concave below the middle, narrowly acuminate above, 10 × 4 mm, 3-veined, the central vein subcarinate externally; lateral sepals united to their apices into a lamina similar to the dorsal sepal; petals narrowly linear, acuminate, 9 × 1.5 mm, thickened, translucent yellow-green with pale red spots and stripes; lip broadly ovate, thickened, geniculate, indistinctly 3-lobed, 2.5 × 2.5 mm spread out, lateral lobes yellow, broadly rounded and curved up, middle lobe small, narrowly triangular, apex long-acuminate, base concave just above the attachment to the column-foot, disc with a sharp transverse carina near the middle, marked with purple-brown; column terete, 1.5 mm long, with a short foot.

**ETYMOLOGY:** Named in honor of F L Stevenson of Chamblee, Georgia, who first discovered the species.

**TYPE:** *ECUADOR:* PINCHINCHA: terrestrial and epiphytic along the roadside near km 70, alt. 1800 m, between Quito and Santo Domingo, 10 March 1975, C. Luer & R. Kent 224 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); near km 80, alt. 1500 m, 17 Aug 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 567 (SEL); same area, F L Stevenson 111974-12 (SEL) and 1-2575-3.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Ecuador.

F L Stevenson has been successfully cultivating this species in his greenhouse in Georgia for several years, and he called my attention to it last year. This year it was found in flower on the western slopes of Pichincha in both March and August. It seems related to the Venezuelan *Pleurothallis gracilipedunculata* Foldats, but it is easily distinguished by its acuminate sepals, narrow glabrous petals, and an apiculate lip.

*Pleurothallis stevensonii* is easily recognized by its dense clump of thread-like stems, each of which supports a small, oval, abruptly acuminate leaf. The central tooth at the apex is noticeably elongated. The erect, long-pedicellate flowers are produced singly, a few at a time, from a fascicle of old pedicels at the base of the leaf. The gaping flowers are yellow-green and the fleshy narrow petals are delicately marked with rose. The lip is also fleshy with upturned, broadly rounded lateral lobes connected by a transverse carina. The small middle lobe is long-apiculate.

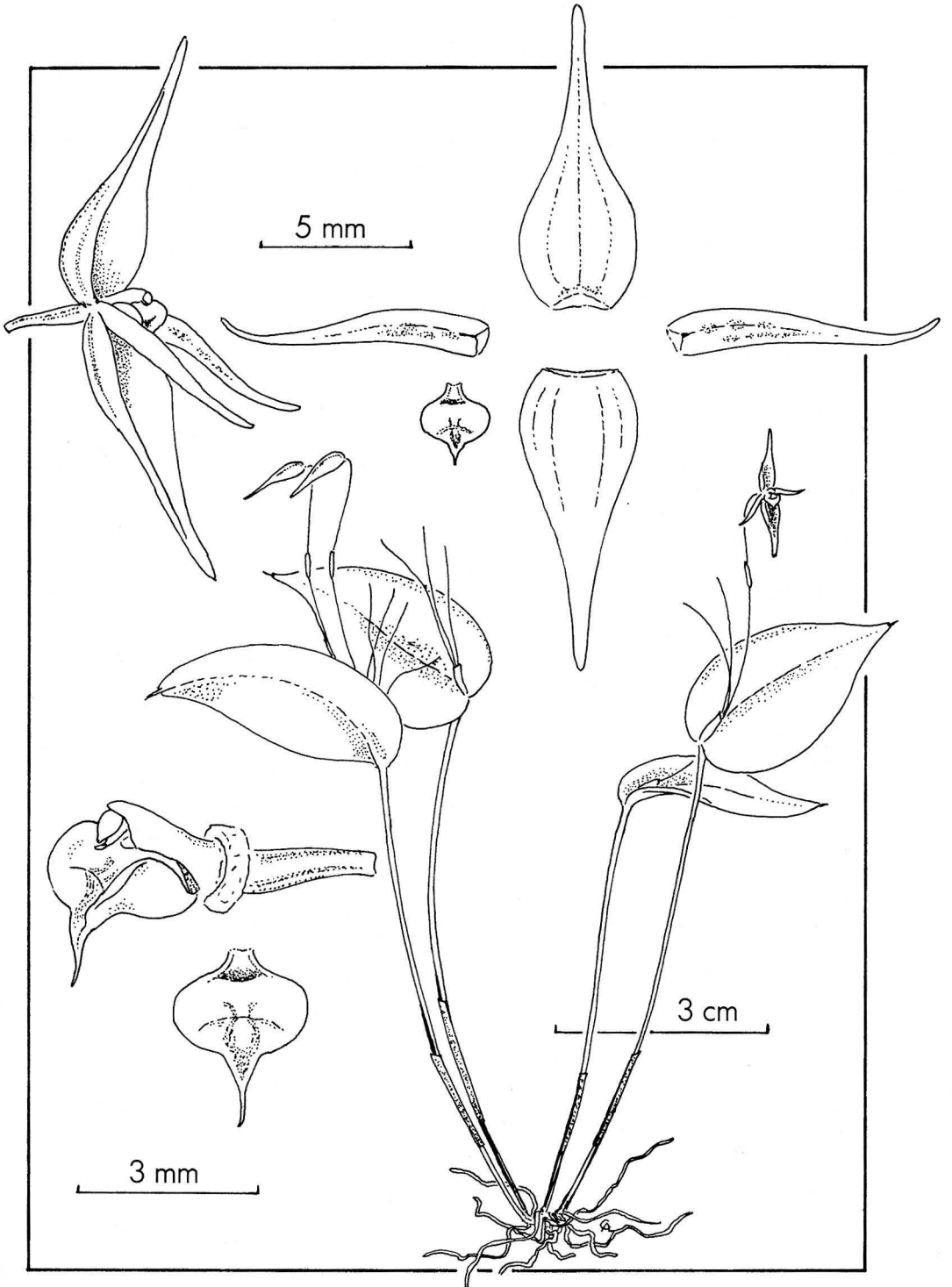


Figure 83. *PLEUROTHALLIS STEVENSONII* Luer