

***Pleurothallis superbiens* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *superbiens*, "superb," referring to the handsome flowers.

Species haec *P. restrepioidis* Lindl., affinis, sed sepalis acuminatis, petalis obtusis et labello cum callo canaliculato longitudinali infra medium et cum marginibus supra medium dense papillois differt.

**Plant** large, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, to 45 cm long, with a purple-spotted tubular sheath below the middle and 2 other purple-spotted sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, subacute, sessile, to 19 cm long, 10 cm wide, rounded below at the base. **Inflorescence** a (occasionally 2) suberect to arching, loose, subsecund, simultaneously several-flowered raceme up to 22 cm long including the peduncle 9-10 cm long, from a slender spathe 2 cm long, at the base of the leaf; floral bracts infundibular, acute, 6-7 mm long; pedicels 9 mm long below to 5 mm long near the apex; ovary 5-7 mm long; **sepals** cream-colored, glistening, spotted within in purple, suffused with purple along margins and toward apices, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, concave, 18 mm long, 8 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovoid, acute, acuminate, concave synsepal, 17 mm long, 7 mm wide expanded, 6-veined; **petals** oblong, obtuse, 7 mm long, 4.25 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** purple, ovoid, 10 mm long, 4 mm wide, concave below the middle with thin, smooth, erect sides, with the sides revolute above the middle to form a decurved tube, coarsely papillose on the margins, extending onto the surface of the lip at the middle with a pair of erect, irregular calli, the surface of the apical segment more or less microscopically verrucose, the disc with a central, longitudinal callus, shallowly sulcate centrally, truncate at the base where it is inflexibly attached to the column-foot; **column** slender, semiterete below the middle, obtusely winged above the middle, 5 mm long, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral, the foot short, thick, pedestal-like.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Carchi: epiphytic in forest between Maldonado and Chical, alt. 1400 m, collected July 1991, flowered in cultivation in Chamblee, GA, *F L Stevenson 91-1129-1* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 16956.

This large species was recently discovered by F L Stevenson in northernmost Ecuador, and cultivated in Chamblee, Georgia. It is closely related to *P. restrepioides* which is common a short distance to the south. *Pleurothallis superbiens* is distinguished by the larger, broadly ovate leaf round at the base, and with similar, loose racemes of large flowers. The dorsal sepals and synsepals are slightly narrower and acuminate. The petals are broad and obtuse. The lip is concave below the middle with a distinct, central, longitudinal callus that is attached to the column-foot. Above the middle the surface of the lip is densely and coarsely papillose at the place where the margins become revolute. The papillae continue below along the revolute margins.



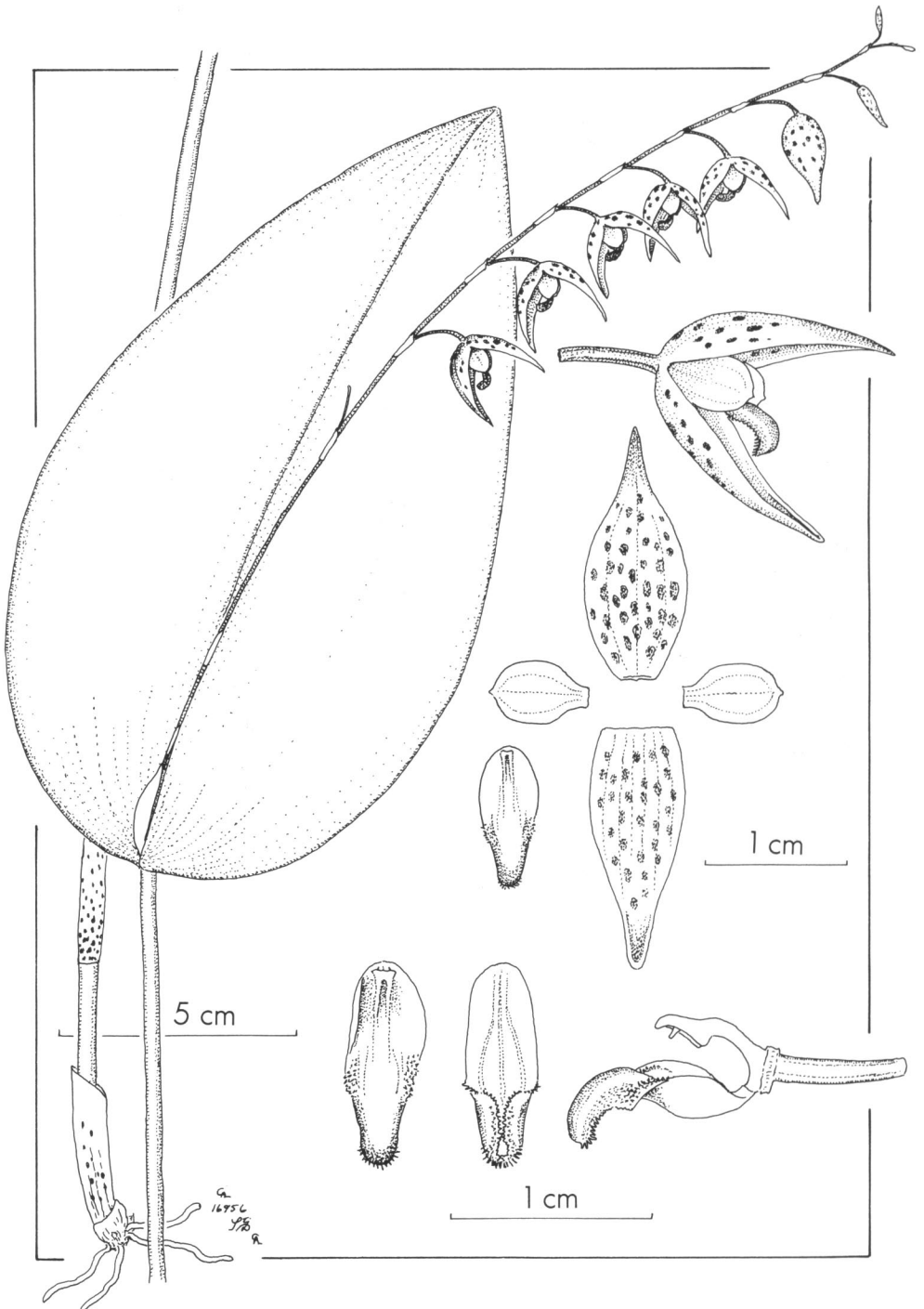


Plate 8. *Pleurothallis superbiens* Luer