

***Pleurothallis tetroxys* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Greek *tetroxys*, "with four sharp points," referring to the narrow, pointed sepals and petals.

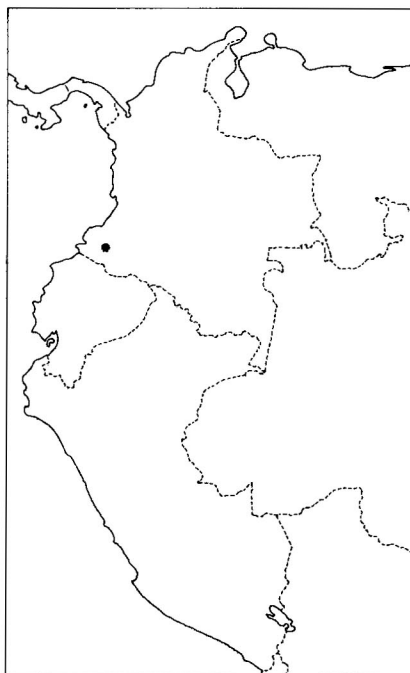
Inter species subgeneris *Scopulae* Luer species haec petalis subulatis, glandulosis et labello cuneato concavo apice truncato eroso distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots densely fasciculate, slender. **Ramicauls** slender, erect, with a tubular sheath below the middle and 2 others at the base, 5-8 cm long to the base of the leaf. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-linear, acute, 8-13 cm long, 0.7-1 cm wide, the base narrowly cuneate, indistinctly petiolate, long-decurrent on the ramicaul. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of successive, single-flowered peduncles 5-8 mm long, 10-15 mm below the apex of the leaf, subtended by a spathe 5 mm long; floral bract 4-5 mm long; pedicel 6-10 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** and petals red-brown with the apices yellow, the dorsal sepal elliptical and concave below the middle, narrowly linear and obtuse above the middle, 12 mm long, 4 mm wide unexpanded, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovate synsepal 11.5 mm long, 5 mm wide unexpanded, concave below the middle, acuminate and narrowly obtuse above the middle; **petals** elliptical below the middle, glandular cellular-pubescent, with 3 darker veins, 11 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the acute apex long-attenuate; **lip** brown, darker brown centrally, oblong-cuneate, concave, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, the truncate apex erose, the base rounded and concave to articulate with the bulbous base of the column; **column** cream, semiterete, 3 mm long, the anther subapical, exposed, the stigma subapical, the under surface of the column pubescent, bulbous at the base, essentially footless.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Nariño: Munic. of Ricaurte: collected near La Planada, alt ca. 1800 m, flowered in cultivation at the Orquideario by J. Orejuela, 25 Jan. 1987, *C. Luer* 12497 (Holotype: MO).

Pleurothallis tetroxys is one of three species of the subgenus that are sympatric in the wet forest of southwestern Colombia in the vicinity of the La Planada Science Center. The other two species, *P. penicillata* and *P. ruscaria* were discovered in the same area in 1979.

This species is distinguished from the others of the subgenus by the brown flowers with acuminate, yellow apices of the sepals and petals. The lip is cuneate with a thin, erose, truncate, apical margin. The base is concave to accommodate the bulbous base of the essentially footless column. The "ball and socket" articulation is reminiscent of that seen in the genus *Barbosella* Schltr.



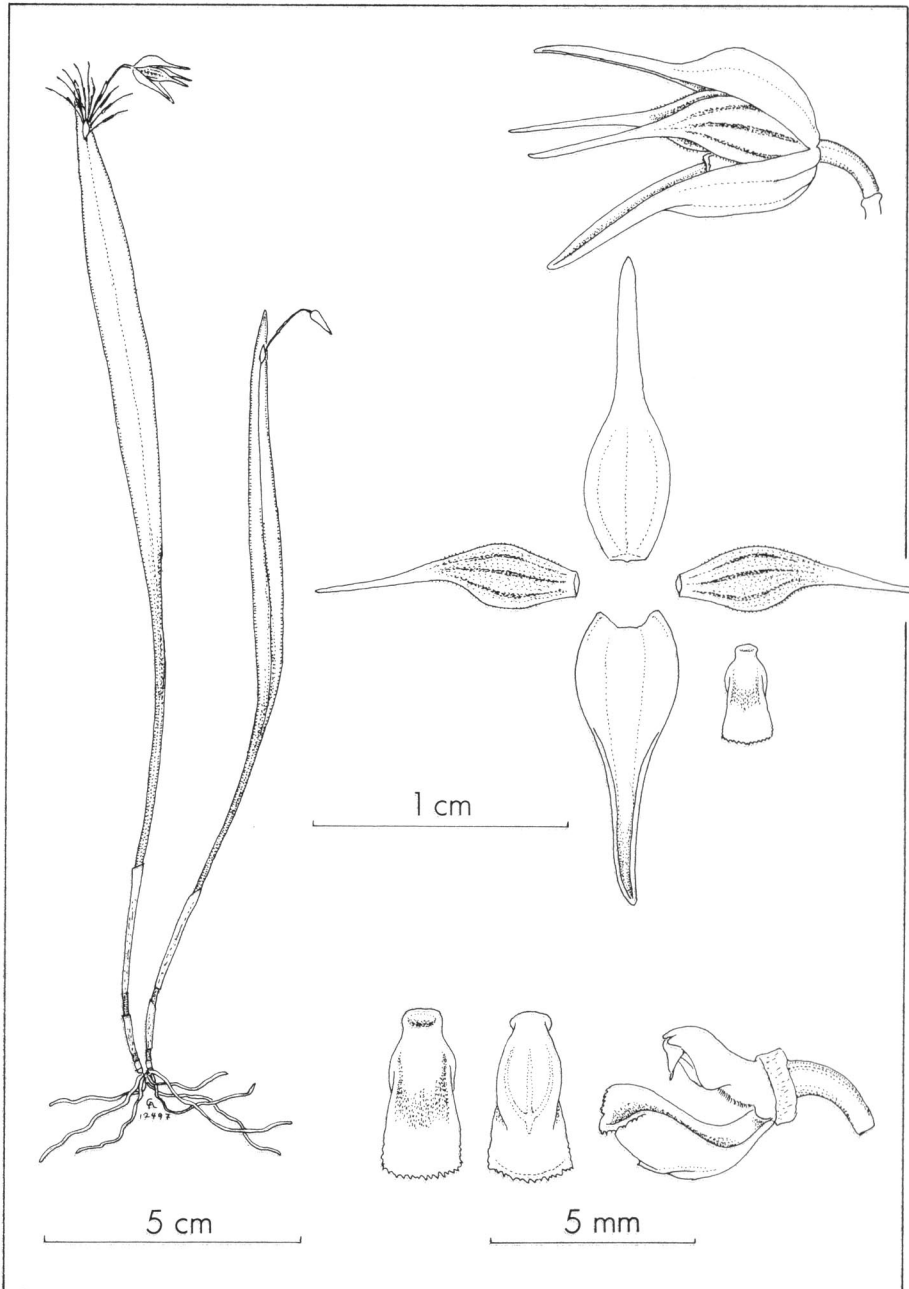


Plate 6. *Pleurothallis tetroxys* Luer