

Porroglossum actrix Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Etymology: From the Latin *actrix*, "a performer," in allusion to a walker of the high wire.

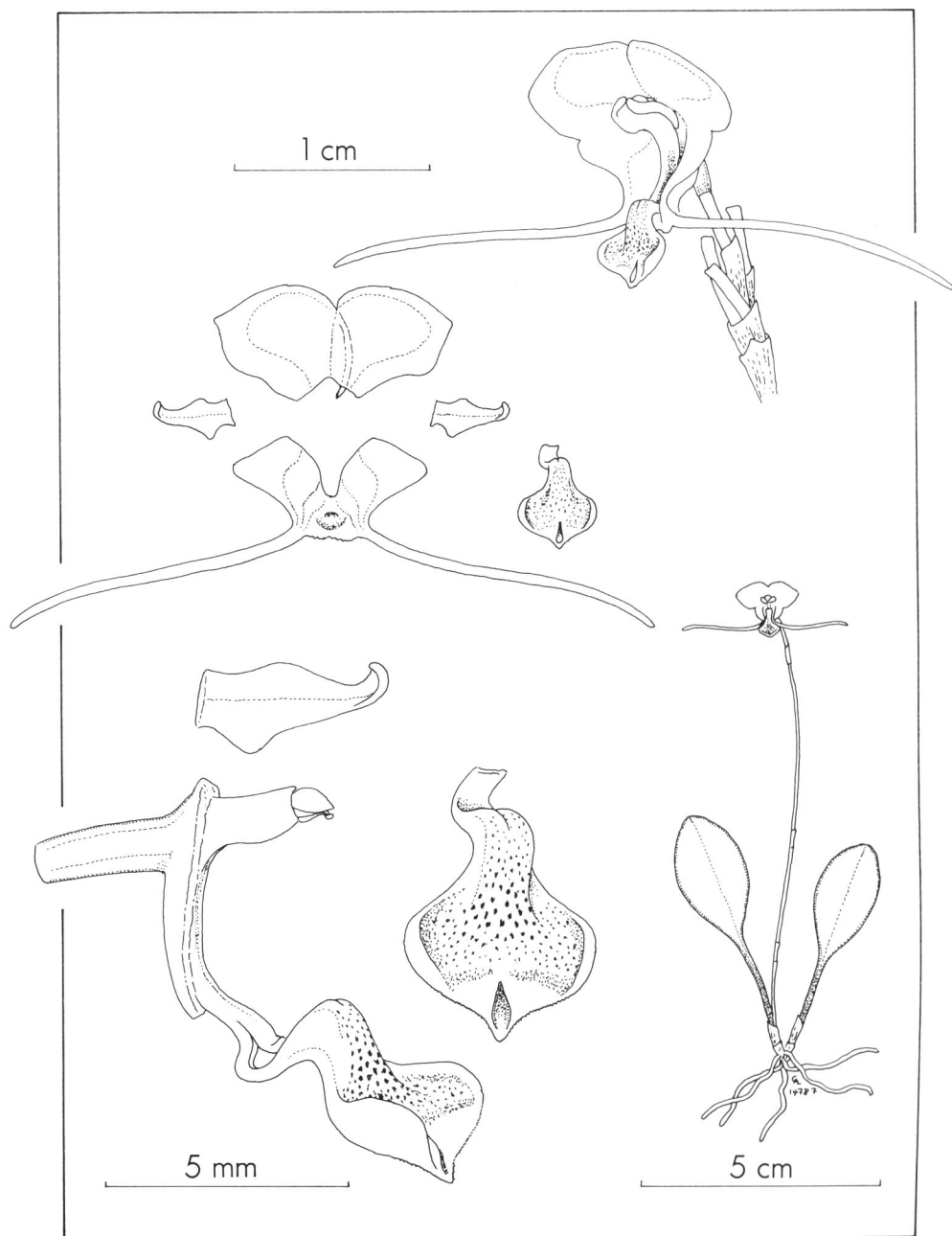
Species haec *P. amethystino* (Reichb. f.) Garay affinis, sed foliis spathulatis, pedunculo breviori, sepalo dorsali latissimo et labelli callo crassiore differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 7-10 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, 4-4.5 cm long including a petiole 1.5-2 cm long, the blade elliptical, obtuse, 1.2-1.5 mm wide, the base cuneate into the slender petiole. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively few-flowered raceme, with the flowers resupinate, borne by an erect, smooth, slender peduncle 4-7.5 cm long, with 2-3 closely applied, distant bracts, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts imbricating, 3-5 mm long; pedicel 8 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal orange-brown, transversely oblong-ovate, 6 mm long, 12 mm wide expanded, connate to the lateral sepals for 3 mm, the apex abruptly contracted into an acutely reflexed, slender tail 5 mm long, the lateral sepals lemon yellow, transversely oblong, the blade 3 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, connate to each other 2 mm behind the free apex of the column-foot, the apices broadly obtuse, abruptly contracted slender, horizontal, yellow tails 15 mm long; **petals** orange-brown, ovate-oblong, 4.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, with the narrowly obtuse apex recurved, obtusely angled above the base on the labellar margin; **lip** pink with orange-brown flecks, glabrous, the blade thick, obovate, obtuse, 4.5 mm long, 4 mm wide, the lateral angles rounded, incurved, the apex microscopically ciliate with a short, concave apiculum, the base with a tall callus, deflexed below into a straplike claw bent with tension around the free apex of the column-foot; **column** stout, semiterete, 2 mm long, the foot 5 mm long.

COLOMBIA: Intend. of Putumayo: above Villa Garzón, alt. ca. 2000 m, collected by Julio Cesar Miranda, Jr., May 1989, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, Mar. 1990, *R. Escobar* 4050 (Holotype: MO; Isotype: JAUM), C. Luer illustr. 14787.

This pretty species of section *Porroglossum* is apparently endemic on the eastern slope of the Andes of southern Colombia. It is identified by the extremely broad, orange-brown dorsal sepal with an acutely reflexed, short tail. The lemon yellow lateral sepals are much narrower with a straight pair of slender tails extended outward from each side like a miniature balancing pole of an aerialist on a high wire. The callus on the base of the blade of the lip above the strap is thick.



Plate 33. *Porroglossum actrix* Luer & Escobar