

**Pleurothallis aryster** C. Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica breviter repens, caulibus secundariis brevissimis unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis late ellipticis obtusis sessilibus, racemo dependenti brevi paucifloro, flore successivo non-resupinato cremeo purpureo punctato, sepalo antico anguste lineari-ovato acuto naviculari, synsepalo erecto concavo late ovato obtuso, petalis oblongo-obovatis obtusis, labello cuneiformi breviter unguiculato apice late rotundato disco bilamellato leviter dentato, columna cucullata alata denticuato.

Plant small, epiphytic, shortly creeping, the primary stem stout, with short, deciduous sheaths; roots few, flexuous. Secondary stems terete, about 5 mm long, mostly concealed by 1-2 short sheaths, unifoliolate. Leaf coriaceous, broadly elliptical, flat, light green, apex obtuse to rounded, emarginate with an apiculum in the sinus, base broadly cuneate to rounded, sessile, 2.5-4.5 × 1.1-1.8 cm. Inflorescence a pendent, few-flowered (1-3) raceme, about 2 cm long; flowers non-resupinate, produced singly, successively, all parts cream-colored, flecked with red-purple; peduncle filiform, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract acute, 2 mm long; pedicel 5-9 mm long; ovary green, speckled with purple, 4 mm long; middle sepal thick, narrowly linear-ovate, navicular, 9-11 × 2-3 mm; lateral sepals connate into an erect, concave, broadly ovate to obovate, obtuse, uppermost synsepal, minutely spiculate within, 9-11 × 6-8 mm; petals oblong-obovate, obtuse, slightly oblique, 4 × 1.5 mm; lip cuneiform, the base shortly and narrowly clawed, the sides more or less straight, the apex broadly rounded, with a central pair of shortly toothed lamellae, 4.5 × 2-3 mm; column white, 4 mm long, hooded, with lightly toothed wings, and with a posteriorly directed foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *aryter*, "a ladle, or a dipper," in allusion to the appearance of the inflorescence.

TYPE: PERU: HUANUCO: epiphytic about 35 km south of Tingo Maria, *Fred Fuchs s.n.* (HOLOTYPE: SEL), cultivated at SEL, greenhouse acc. no. 5-75-2, flowered in cult. 31 July 1976.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SEEN: COSTA RICA: without locality, *H. H. Morgan s.n.* (SEL), cultivated by Morgan, flowered in cult. 27 Jan. 1975.

DISTRIBUTION: Peru and Costa Rica.

This species was first brought to my attention in January 1975 by H. H. "Pete" Morgan of Myakka City, Florida, who had brought it from Costa Rica. For the next year and a half the sketches lay in my file until a plant from Peru, submitted by Fred Fuchs of Naranja, Florida, flowered in our "cool" house. Although apparently originating in two disjunct stations, the two plants differ only in minor details. Perhaps further investigation will fill the gap. *Pleurothallis aryster* is allied to *P. mentosa* Cogn.

Broadly elliptical, short-stemmed leaves are produced on a short, creeping rhizome. At intervals of time, the short pendent raceme produces a single, ivory-colored flower covered with minute specks of red-purple. At the bottom of the stem, the large, concave synsepal is uppermost in the flower, giving the appearance of a long-handled dipper.

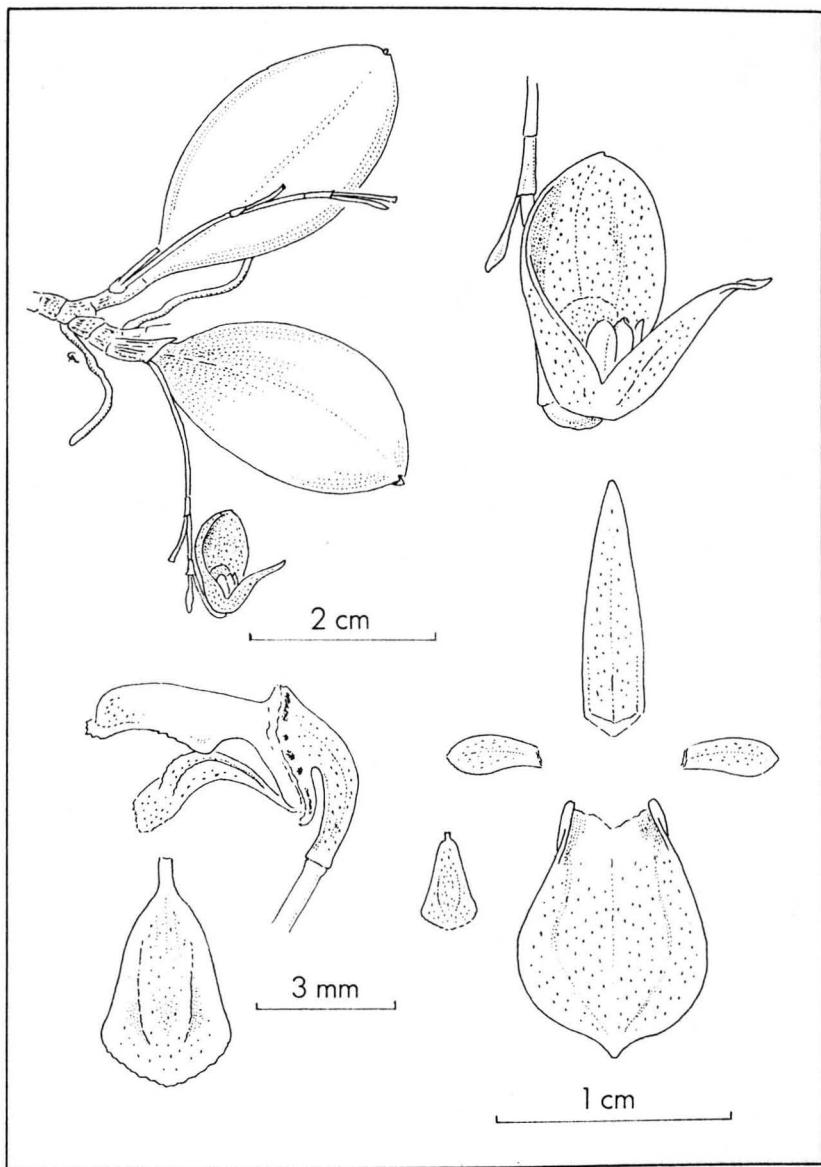


Figure 130. PLEUROTHALLIS ARYTER C. A. Luer