

***Pleurothallis alta*** Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: ECUADOR. Carchi: epiphytic in wet forest below the paramo toward Maldonado, alt. 2450 m, 26 Feb. 1992, S. Dalström 1578 (Holotype: MO). Fig. 4.

Planta mediocris foliis angustis longipetiolatis ramicaulibus longioribus, inflorescentia racemosa folio multilongiora pedunculo ancipitio, sepalis

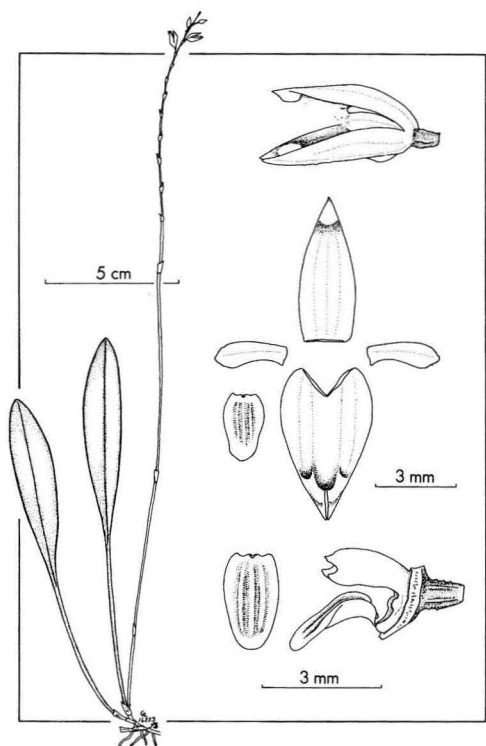


Fig. 4. *Pleurothallis alta* Luer.

acutis alticarinatis apicibus callosis, petalis anguste obovatis, labello oblongo tricalloso, et columnae pede bituberoso.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, shortly repent; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2–2.5 cm long, enclosed by 2–3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, subacute, long-petiolate, 12–14 cm long including the petiole ca. 6 cm long, 1.4–1.7 cm wide, narrowly cuneate into the slender petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, lax, successively several-flowered raceme up to 27 cm long or longer, including the ancipitous peduncle ca. 17 cm long, from near the base of the ramicaul; floral bracts 2 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** glabrous, tall-carinate, pale greenish yellow, thickly callous at the apices, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 5.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acute, shortly bifid synsepal, 6 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** translucent light yellow, obovate, oblique, obtuse, 2.75 mm long, 1 mm wide, the margins of the apex minutely irregular-erose; **lip** yellow-green, elliptical-oblong, 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex rounded, the margins broadly rounded and slight-

ly elevated below the middle, the disc with 3 parallel, longitudinal calli, the base truncate, with a small, central, marginal cavity, hinged to the column-foot; **column** longitudinally winged, tridentate at the apex, 2 mm long, the foot 1 mm long with a pair of rounded calli, the anther and stigma ventral.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Latin *altus*, “tall,” in reference to the habit.

This species of section *Pleurothallis* is distinguished by the narrow, long-petiolate leaves borne by much shorter ramicauls from an ascending rhizome. The plant resembles a very large form of *P. costaricensis* Rolfe including the compressed peduncle. The peduncle, however, is as long as the leaf with ramicaul, and the raceme reaches another 10 centimeters higher. The habit is reminiscent of a large *P. gracillima* Lindl. or *P. producta* Luer. The sepals are tall-carinate with sharply acute apices. Immediately behind the apices, a markedly thick callus is present.