

***Pleurothallis brighamella* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for the resemblance to *Pleurothallis brighamii* S. Watson.

Species haec *P. brigmamii* S. Watson persimilis, sed habitu multiminoribus, floribus rubromaculatis minoribus et columnae pede ecalloso differt.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2-3 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 14-18 mm long including a petiole 1-2 mm long, 4-4.5 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a congested fascicle of single, successive flowers, borne by a slender, erect peduncle 20-25 mm long; pedicels 3-4 mm long; floral bracts thin, tubular, imbricating, acuminate, 2.5-3 mm long; ovary 1-1.5 mm long; sepals membranous, light tan, flecked with red along the veins, subcarinate, glabrous, the dorsal sepal oblong, acute, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate above the middle into an ovate, bifid lamina, 5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, 6-veined, the apices acute; petals translucent, mottled and edged in purple, obovate-spathulate, oblique, 2.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apex subacute, 2-veined, with the labellar margin dilated; lip orange-brown, fleshy, oblong, 2.5 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the apex rounded, microscopically erose, with an obtuse marginal angle between the middle and basal thirds, the disc with a pair of minutely verrucose calli above the middle, shallowly channeled between, the base truncate with a minute lobule at each corner, hinged to the column-foot; column yellow, suffused with purple, stout, 2.3 mm long, longitudinally winged, bidentate at the apex, the foot 1 mm long without calli, the anther and stigma ventral.

PANAMA: Without collection data, cultivated by Maduro's Tropical Flowers at Cerro Punta, 18 Nov. 1998, C. Luer 19005 (Holotype: MO).

This is very closely related to the frequent and widely distributed *P. brighamii*. It is distinguished from the latter by the minute habit; smaller, red-flecked sepals; and a column devoid of calli.

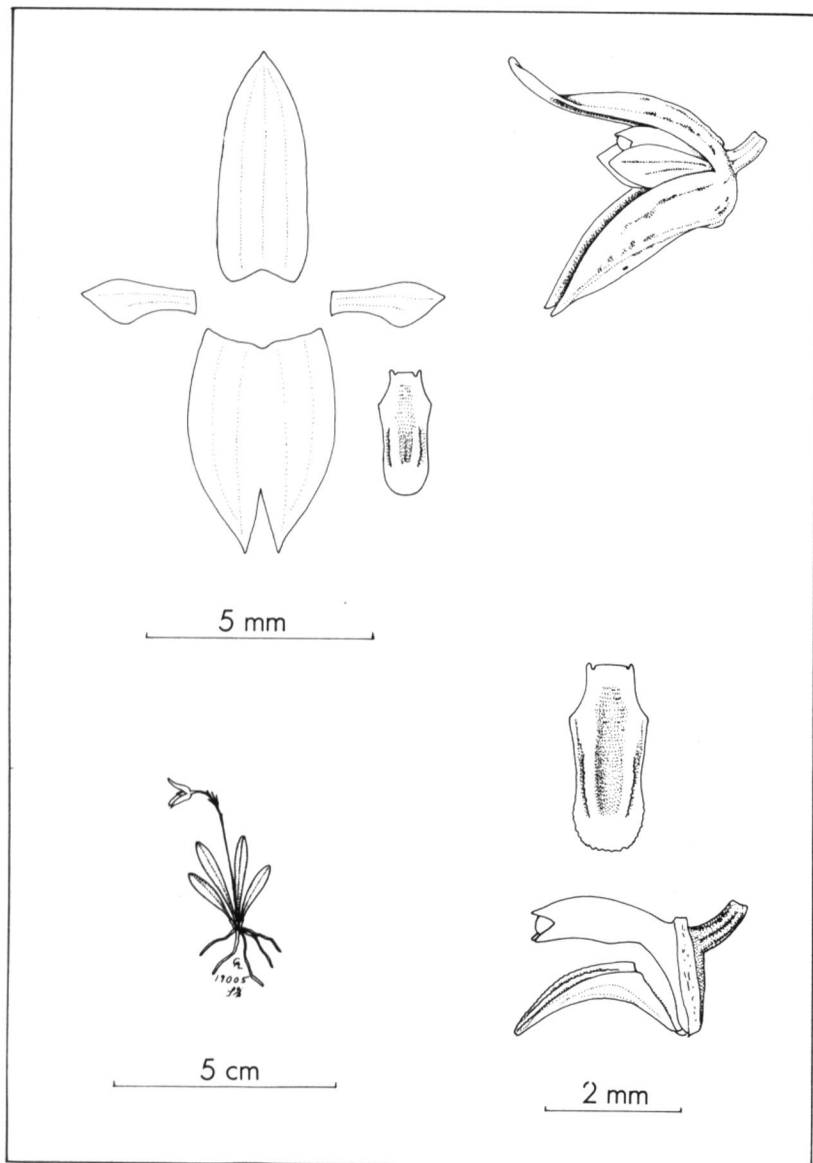


Fig. 22a. *Pleurothallis brighamella*