

**Pleurothallis clavigera** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica dense caespitosa, caulibus secundariis brevibus unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis anguste ellipticis acutis base anguste petiolatis, floribus singularibus successivis fasciculatis ad apicem pedunculi filiformis folia superantibus, sepalis purpureo guttatis sparsim spiculatis caudatis clavellatis, sepalo dorsali ovato tricarinato, sepalis lateralibus anguste triangularibus ad basim connatis, petalis anguste ellipticis apiculatis sparsim breviciliatis, labello carnosio punctato convexo rotundato brevifimbriato infra medium angulato unguiculato.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose, roots numerous, fine, flexuous. Secondary stems short, terete, 4-7 mm long, with 1-2 thin, tubular sheaths, unifoliolate. Leaves coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, tridenticulate, the base narrowly cuneate-petiolate, 2-3.5 cm long, 3-4 mm wide. Inflorescence a fascicle of flowers borne at the apex of a filiform, more or less erect peduncle, to 4 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem, the flowers produced singly and successively; floral bracts translucent, 2-3 mm long; pedicel 4-8 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals translucent yellow, spotted with red-purple, sparsely spiculate externally, especially along the veins, the dorsal sepal ovate, tricarinate, 8 mm long, 2 mm wide, the lateral sepals narrowly triangular, connate basally, each bicarinate, 8 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, all 3 sepals attenuated into slender tails with yellow-green clavate-thickened apices; petals narrowly elliptical, acute, apiculate, sparsely and shortly ciliate, 3 mm long, 0.4 mm wide; lip light green with dark purple dots, fleshy, suborbicular, convex, the margins shortly fimbriate, angled below the middle, the apex rounded, the base unguiculate, the disc with a small, central, oval, glistening spot, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide; column slender, 2 mm long, foot short, bilobed.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *claviger*, "club bearing" (*clava*, "club"), in allusion to clavate sepals.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: MANABI(?): purchased by Roberto Estrada from a collector who probably obtained the plant in Manabi, cult. in Guayaquil, 24 Feb. 1977, *C. Luer 1468* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Coastal Ecuador.

This floriferous little, caespitose plant, similar to many closely allied species, is distinguished by the fascicle of singly appearing flowers at the apex of a hair-like peduncle. The slender, purple-spotted sepals of the comparatively large flowers are widely spread. Minute spicules are borne externally. The thin petals are sparsely ciliate and the thick, rounded, convex lip, generously speckled with dark purple, is surrounded by a flared, fringed margin. *Pleurothallis clavigera* is similar to *P. aristata* Hook. which bears its flowers in racemes and lacks the clavellate apices of the sepals.

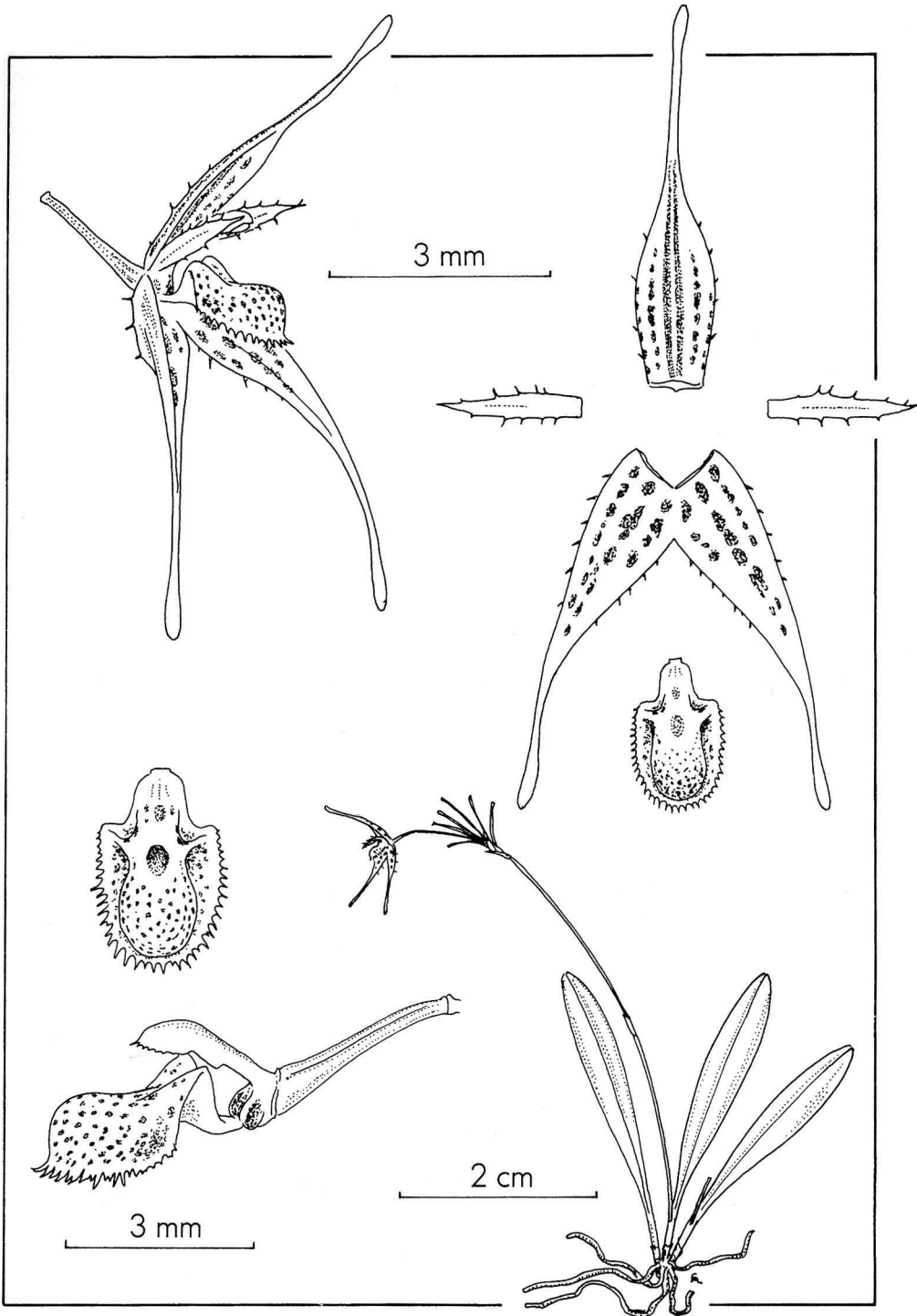


Figure 235. *PLEUROTHALLIS CLAVIGERA* Luer