

***Pleurothallis coronula* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *coronula*, "a little crown," referring to the fringed cavity at the base of the lip.

Planta parva caespitosa, racemo paucifloro congestissimo, pedunculo foliis petiolatis duplo longiore, sepalis carinatis denticulatis breviter acuminatis lateralibus supra medium connatis, petalis oblongis obliquis obtusis, labello oblongo eroso, disco bicarinato carinis supra basim in cavitatem convenientibus, et columna bialata cum pede biclavellata distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 5-9 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, narrowly elliptical, acute, 15-20 mm long including the petiole 5-8 mm long, 3-4.5 mm wide, gradually narrowed below into the petiolate base. Inflorescence a congested, successively flowered fascicle; peduncle 2.5-5 cm long, borne laterally from the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, tubular, imbricating, 2.5-3 mm long; pedicels 5 mm long; ovary lightly papillose, 1.25 mm long; sepals translucent light green, suffused with rose centrally, membranous, minutely denticulate with denticulate carinate, the dorsal sepal oblong, subacute, concave, shortly acuminate, 7 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate to above the middle into an ovate, bifid lamina with acute, acuminate apices, 7 mm long, 5 mm wide, 4-veined; petals translucent rose, obliquely oblong, shortly unguiculate, obliquely obtuse at the apex, 3 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 1-veined, with the margins minutely erose; lip rosy brown, elliptical-oblong, 3.75 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, with the margins thin and serrate, rounded at the apex, the disc with a longitudinal pair of subparallel calli nearly the length of the lip, at the base the calli join to form a fringed cup-like cavity, the apex with a central, serrated callus, the base hinged to the column-foot; column 2 mm long, with broad, round wings, the foot 2 mm long, with a prominent pair of pedunculated calli near the middle, the anther subapical and stigma ventral.

COLOMBIA: Nariño: without exact locality, collected by José Luis Aguirre, cultivated by J & L Orchids at Easton, CT, 19 June 1998, *C. Luer 18824* (Holotype: MO).

This little species is apparently endemic in southern Colombia. The flower is borne successively in a fascicle by a slender peduncle twice or more longer than the leaves. The shortly acuminate sepals are minutely carinate-denticulate. The petals are obliquely obtuse with minutely erose margins. The lip is elliptical with thin, serrate margins. A longitudinal pair of carinae join above the base to form a fringed crown-like cavity. A large, pedunculated callus is present on either side of the column-foot.

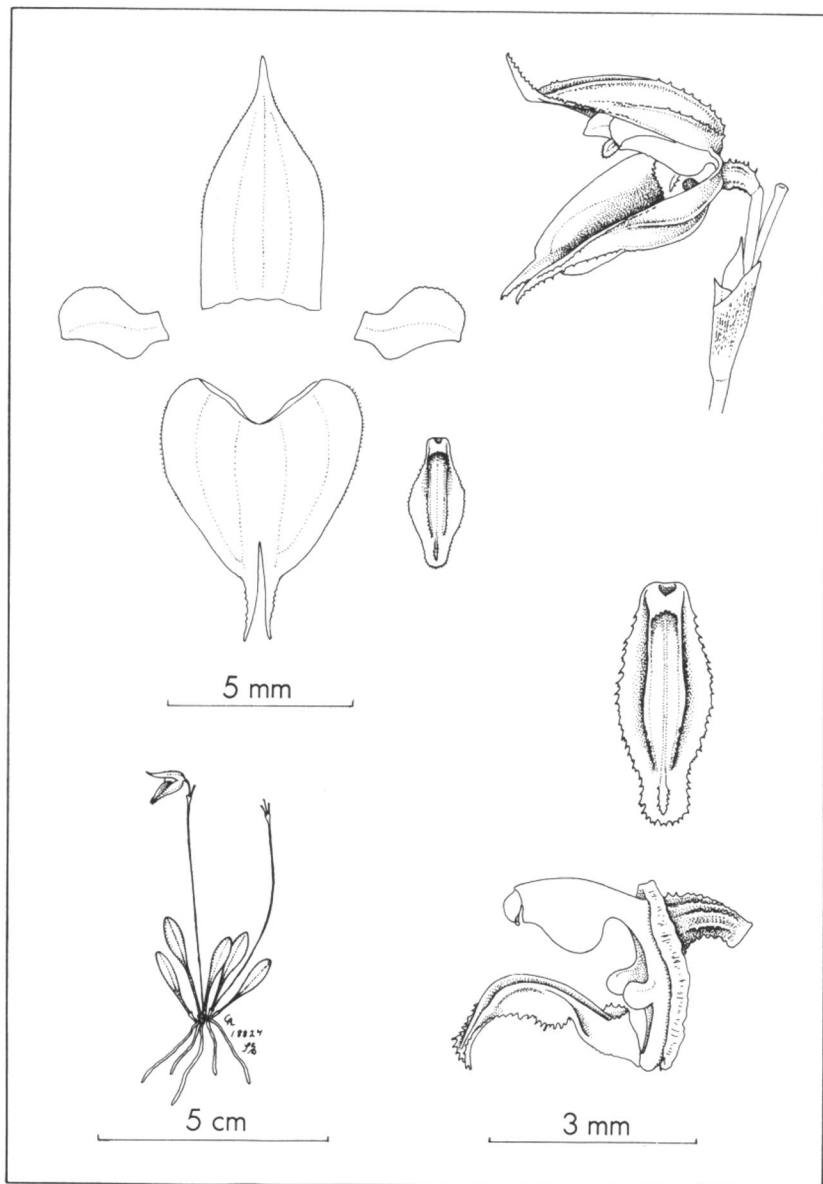


Fig. 23a. *Pleurothallis coronula*