

Pleurothallis kennedyi Luer, sp. nov.

Planta perparva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis abbreviatis unifoliatis, foliis crassis ellipticis obtusis subpetiolatis, racemo laxe paucifloro folia superanti, flore singulari successivo longipedicellato, sepalis carnosiss flavis purpureo guttatis ellipticis carinis serrulatis brevicaudatis, caudis crassis aurantiacis, sepalis lateralibus infra medium connatis, petalis ellipticis laciniatis apice acutis crassis, labello carnoso atropurpureo oblongo trilobato verruculoso subter carinato, lobo antico rotundato, lobis lateralibus rotundatis erectis.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fine, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, terete, 3-5 mm long, unifoliate, with 1-2 thin, basal sheaths. Leaves thick, coriaceous, suberect, elliptical, marginate, obtuse, tridentulate, the base cuneate, subpetiolate, 9-14 mm long, 3-4 mm wide. Inflorescence a loose, few-flowered raceme to 4 cm long, the flowers produced singly and successively, peduncle filiform, erect, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract minute, up to 1 mm long; pedicel 6 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals fleshy, yellow, marked and striped with purple, with serrulate carinae along the veins, sparsely short-pubescent externally, glabrous within, elliptical-ovate, with short, thick, orange tails about 1 mm long, the dorsal sepal 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate below the middle, each 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined; petals broadly elliptical, lacerate, yellow with purple markings, the apex thickened, acute, 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the single vein thickened; lip dark purple, fleshy, oblong, 3-lobed, with a toothed keel beneath, the anterior lobe oblong, rounded, the lateral lobes broadly obtuse to rounded, erect, the base broadly hinged to the column-foot, the disc with a pair of central calli, the entire upper surface verruculose, 2 mm long, 1.5 mm wide spread; column winged, bidigitate, 1.75 mm long, with a short purple foot.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of its discoverer, Dr. George Kennedy of Los Angeles, California.

TYPE: *PERU*: SAN MARTIN: near La Divisoria, *G. Kennedy s.n.* (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 86-75-5, flowered in cult. 11 Feb. 1977.

DISTRIBUTION: Peru.

This tiny species, vegetatively very similar to many other related species, may be recognized by the few-flowered raceme which produces a slow succession of single flowers. The fleshy yellow sepals, marked with purple, are terminated by short, thick, orange tails. Externally the sepals are denticulate-carinate along the veins. The lacerate petals also possess thick, orange apices. The obtusely three-lobed, deep purple lip is minutely verruculose.

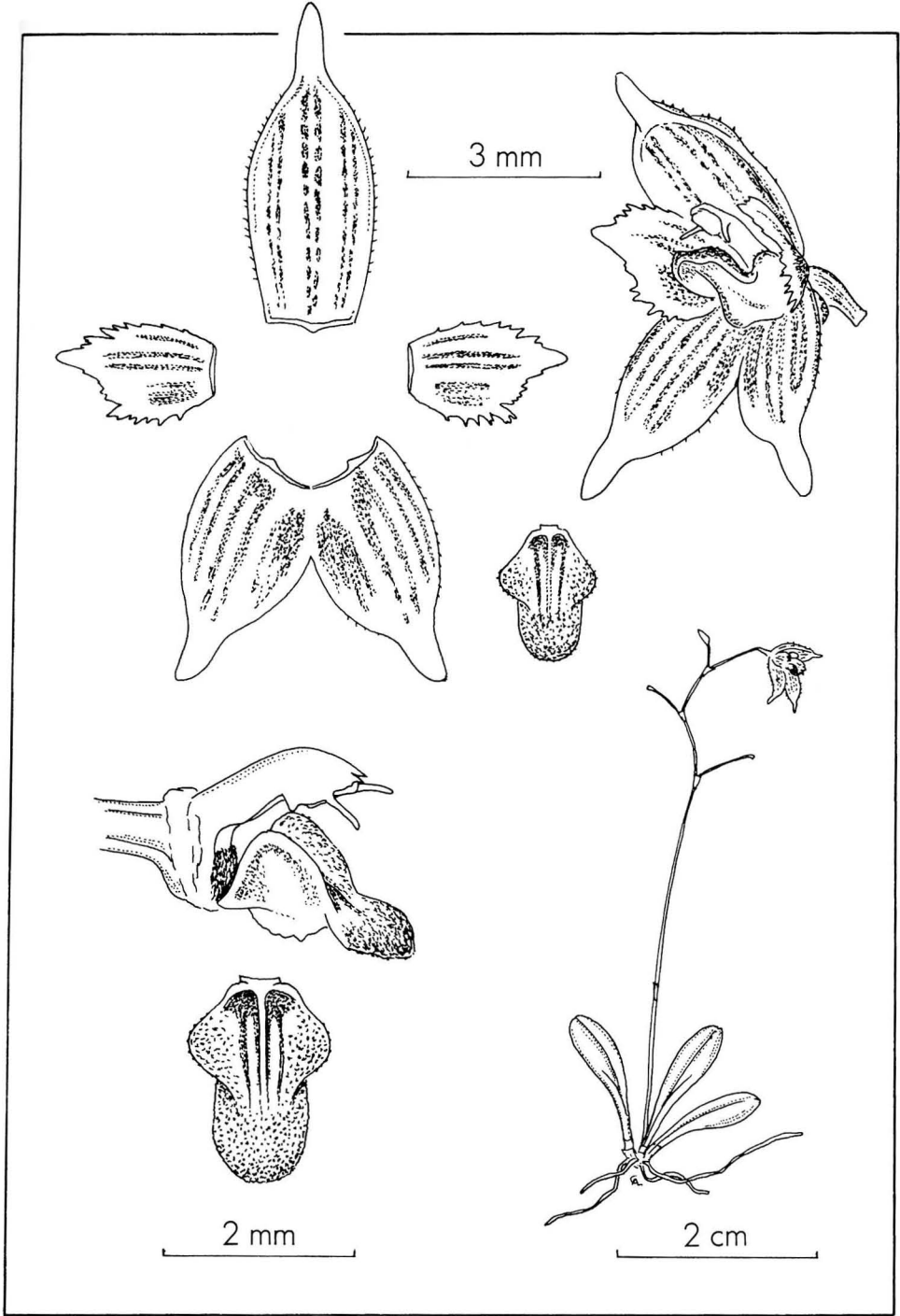


Figure 263. *PLEUROTHALLIS KENNEDYI* Luer