

8. **PLEUROTHALLIS MINUTISSIMA** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta minuta caespitosa, inflorescentia fasciculata pedunculo folis obovatis plus minusve aequilongo, floribus minutissimis, sepalo dorsali elliptico obtuso, sepalis lateralibus in laminam ovatam obtusam connatis, petalis late ellipticis erosis, labello ovato marginibus infra medium erectis fimbriatis, apice obtusis spiculatis, disco sulcato inter callos longitudinales, base bilobulato.

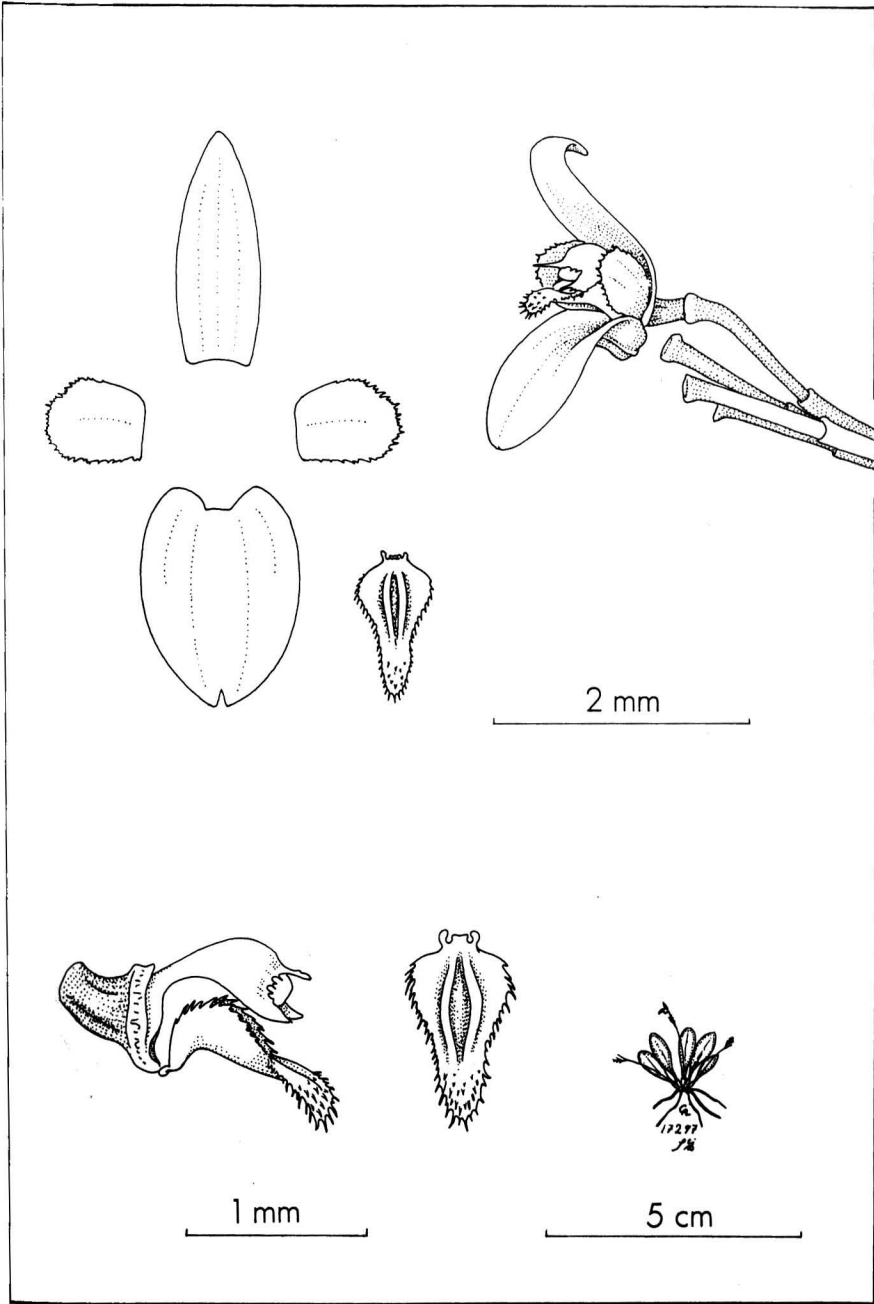
**TYPE:** Colombia: Dept. of Valle del Cauca: forest of Las Juntas del Dagua, west Andes of Cali, alt. 200-500 m, undated, *F. C. Lehmann 8204* (Holotype: K), C. Luer illustr. 17297.

**ETIMOLOGIA:** Del latín *minutissimus*, “pequeñísimo”, en referencia al tamaño de la planta y de la flor.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Latin *minutissimus*, “extremely small,” referring to the size of plant and flower.

**Plant** very small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 1.5-3 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, obovate, obtuse, petiolate, 6-10 mm long, 2.5-3.5 mm wide, cuneate below into an ill-defined petiole ca. 2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively flowered raceme producing the pedicels in a fascicle, borne by an erect, filiform peduncle 4-5 cm long, from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bracts 1 mm long; pedicel 1.5-2.5 mm long; ovary 0.6 mm long; **sepals** white, glabrous, the dorsal sepal elliptical, narrowly obtuse, 1.75 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, faintly 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, obtuse lamina, 1.6 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, 4-veined, with the obtuse apex shortly bifid; **petals** translucent, broadly elliptical with the apex rounded, 0.8 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, with the margins coarsely erose; lip ovate, obscurely bilobed, 1 mm long, 0.6 mm across the basal lobes, the margin of the basal third erect, broadly rounded, fimbriate, with the anterior lobe ovate, narrowly obtuse, spiculate, the disc sulcate between a pair of longitudinal calli, the base minutely bilobulate, hinged between to the column-foot; **column** winged above the middle, denticulate at the apex, 0.8 mm long, the foot 0.3 mm long, with the anther deeply hooded and the stigma ventral.

Esta diminuta especie de la sección *Muscosae* del subgénero *Specklinia* se conoce sólomente por unos pocos ejemplares recolectados por Lehmann en el siglo diecinueve. El hábito de la extremadamente pequeña planta es inseparable del de una pequeña *Platystele* mechuda. Una pequeñísima



*Pleurothallis minutissima* Luer

flor blanca, no mayor que la de un diminuto *Platystele* sale de un fascículo de pedicelos sostenidos por pedúnculos como pelos, tan largos como las hojas. Las flores son posiblemente las más pequeñas del género. *Pleurothallis minutissima* está relacionado con *P. barbulata* y sus parientes, pero se distingue de ellos por su minúsculo tamaño; pétalos orlados; y un labelo con márgenes deflecadas debajo de la mitad, así como un ápice espiculado. El disco sulcado y los diminutos lóbulos basales son similares a los que se ven en las especies afines.

This tiny species of subgenus *Specklinia* section *Muscosae* is known only from the few specimens collected by Lehmann in the nineteenth century. The habit of the extremely small plant is inseparable from one of a small, tufted *Platystele*. A very small white flower, no larger than one of a tiny-flowered *Platystele*, is produced from a fascicle of pedicels borne by hair-like peduncles about as long as the leaves. The flowers are probably the smallest in the genus. *Pleurothallis minutissima* is related to *P. barbulata* and its affinities, but it is distinguished from them by the extremely minute size; broad, fringed petals; and a lip with fringed margins below the middle as well as a spiculate apex. The sulcate disc and minute, basal lobules are similar to those seen in many related species.