

Pleurothallis montezumae Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Alajuela: Upala, Bijuagua, Finca Montezuma, ladera sur de Cerro Montezuma, alt. 600 m, 18 July 1993, *G. Herrera 6280* (Holotype: K; Isotype: CR). Fig. 20.

Species haec *P. fulgenti* Rchb.f. affinis, sed pedunculo brevissimo, racemo laxe bifloro, labello oblongo sine lobis lateralibus, supra medium verrucoso et columnae pede bicalloso differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2–3 cm long, enclosed by 2–3 loose, brown, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, long-petiolate, 9–15 cm long including a slender petiole 3–5 cm long, the blade elliptical, acute, 2–3.2 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a successively two-flowered raceme, the flowers 0.5 cm apart, borne by a slender peduncle 1–1.5 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts 2–3 mm long; pedicel 5 mm long; ovary crested, 1.5 mm long; **sepals** orange-brown, glabrous, tall-carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, apiculate, concave below the apical third, 12 mm long, 6 mm wide, 5-veined, the lateral sepals connate 5 mm to above the middle into an elliptical-obovoid, bifid, bicarinate, synsepal, concave below the middle, with a small mentum below the tip of the column-foot, convex above the middle, 12 mm long, 9 mm wide together expanded, each 3-veined, the apices obtuse, apiculate; **petals** oblong, obtuse, minutely apiculate, 4 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** oblong, 4.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, with the distal half verrucose and denticulate, obtuse, apiculate from beneath, the disc shallowly channeled between converging calli above the middle, flattened below the middle, the base subtruncate, hinged beneath to the column-foot; **column** semiterete, 3.5 mm long, with the apex denticulate, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral, the foot 2.5 mm long, concave toward the apex below a converging pair of calli.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for Cerro Montezuma where the species was discovered.

This species is most closely allied to *P. fulgens* of subgenus *Specklinia* section *Hymenodanthe*, but differs in the very short peduncle that bears a successive and distantly two-flowered raceme.

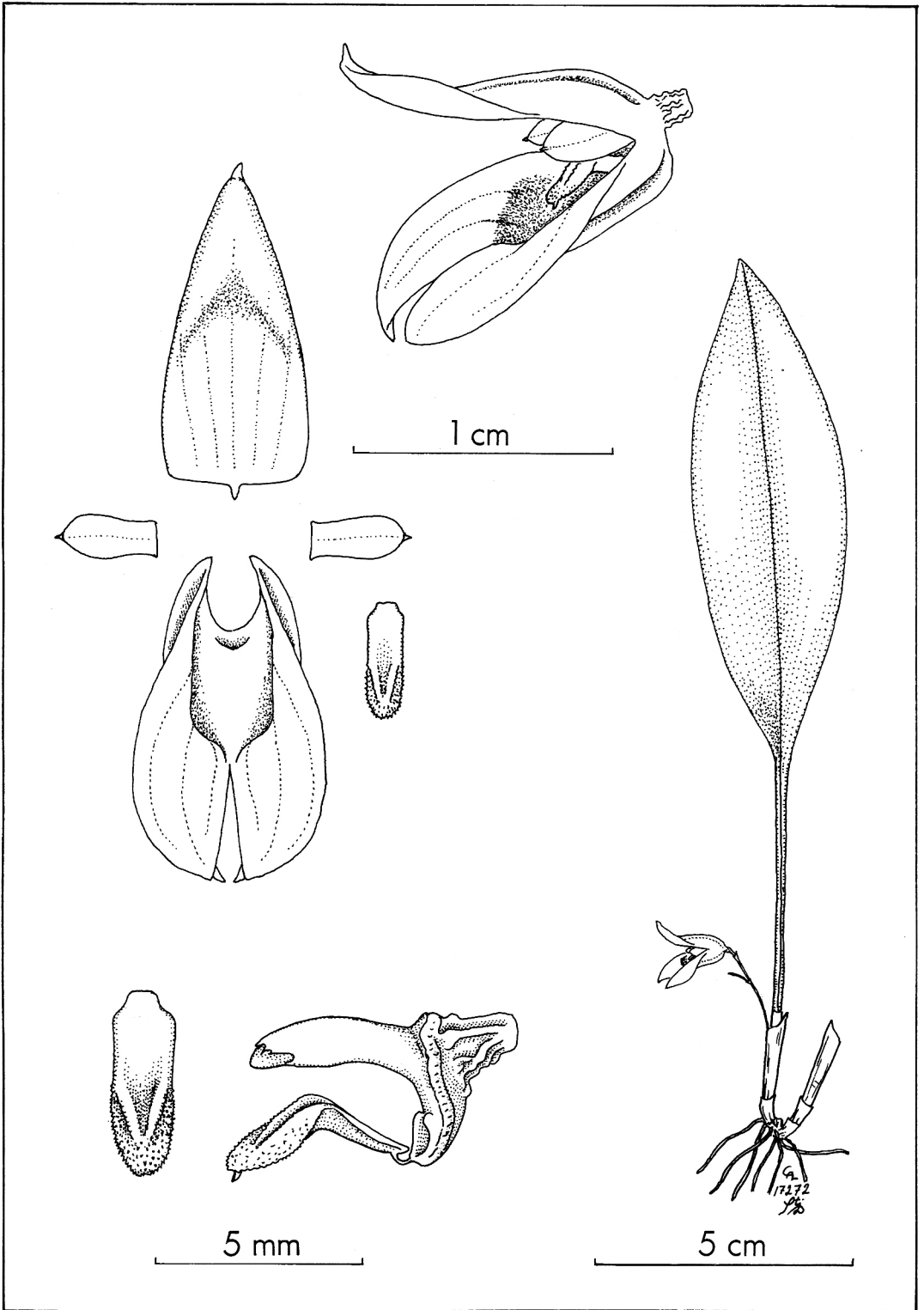


Fig. 20. *Pleurothallis montezumae*

The flowers of the two species are of similar orange color and size with the sepals tall-carinate and apiculate. The additional pair of veins in the dorsal sepal are probably insignificant. The lip of *P. montezumae* is verrucose and denticulate above the middle and without lateral lobes. Most curious is the column-foot that is concave between a pair of calli as seen in *Zootrophion*. These features are vaguely present in *P. fulgens* if they are sought in retrospect. In habit, size and color of the flower, *P. montezumae* is also similar to *P. guanacastensis* Ames & Schweinf. which also has a lobeless lip with a verrucose apical half. *Pleurothallis montezumae* differs in the tall-carinate, apiculate sepals, apiculate apex of the lip, and the pair of calli flanking the cavity on the column-foot.