

Pleurothallis pachyphyta Luer, sp. nov., figure 32. Selbyana 1:193.

Herba parva epiphytica, rhizoma crassa breviter repenti, caulibus secundariis crassissimis brevibus unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis incrassatis ellipticis obtusis cuneatis, racemo paucifloro folio brevior, bracteis scabris, floribus successivis carnosis, sepalis aurantiacis libris ovatis acutis, petalis rubris glabris ovatis acuminatis acutis, labello rubro pubescenti oblongo apice obtuso apiculato, prope medium lobis lateralibus parvis, basi lobulis pedunculatis parvis.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose, with a short, stout, creeping rhizome; roots slender flexuous. Secondary stems 0.5-1 cm long, concealed by 1-2 tubular sheaths, unifoliolate. Leaf coriaceous, elliptical to narrowly obovate, obtuse to acute, tridenticulate, base cuneate, obscurely to narrowly petiolate, 2-5 cm long including the petiole, and 1-2 cm broad. Inflorescence a short (1-2 cm), few (1-5)-flowered raceme; peduncle from a node on the secondary stem. Flowers orange with red-purple petals and lip, produced singly and successively; floral bract scabrous, 2 mm long; pedicel 2-4 mm long; ovary 1-5 mm long; dorsal sepal fleshy, subcarinate, ovate, acute to acuminate, 5 × 2 mm; lateral sepals similar to the dorsal sepal, free to the base where they form a shallow mentum, slightly oblique; petals glabrous, ovate, acuminate-aristate, fleshy, 3.5 × 1 mm; lip oblong, 2.5 × 0.5-1 mm, fleshy, glandular pubescent, with small, erect, triangular lateral lobes just below the middle, apex obtuse, sometimes apiculate, base delicately unguiculate, with a pair of thin white, pedunculated lobules; column 2 mm long, apex denticulate, column-foot short.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *pachys*, "thick, stout," and *phyton*, "plant," referring to the characteristically stout habit of the plant: primary and secondary stems, and leaves.

TYPE: ECUADOR: TUNGURAHUA: epiphytic between Baños and Puyo, alt. 1500 m, *Fred Fuchs, Jr. s.n.* (HOLOTYPE: SEL) greenhouse acc. no. 26-74-113.

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: AZUAY: near Cuenca, *Mrs. Chowning s.n.* (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

Pleurothallis pachyphyta is a small coarse herb which produces a stout creeping primary stem and very short, stout secondary stems. Each bears a broadly obovate, thick, leathery, shortly petiolate leaf. The raceme is abbreviated, furnished with scabrous bracts, and it produces a flower intermittently over a long period of time. The flowers are orange with red-tipped petals and a red lip. The sepals are very sparsely pubescent externally; the acuminate petals are fleshy and glabrous. The oblong lip is glandular-pubescent, especially toward the base. It is provided with a pair of erect, short triangular lobes near the middle and a pair of thin pedunculate lobes at the base.

This species is closely related to *P. brevipes* Focke, from which it may be distinguished by the scabrous bracts, short secondary stem, and the presence of lateral lobes on the lip. It was erroneously identified as *P. lasioglossa* Schltr. in Selbyana 1:192.

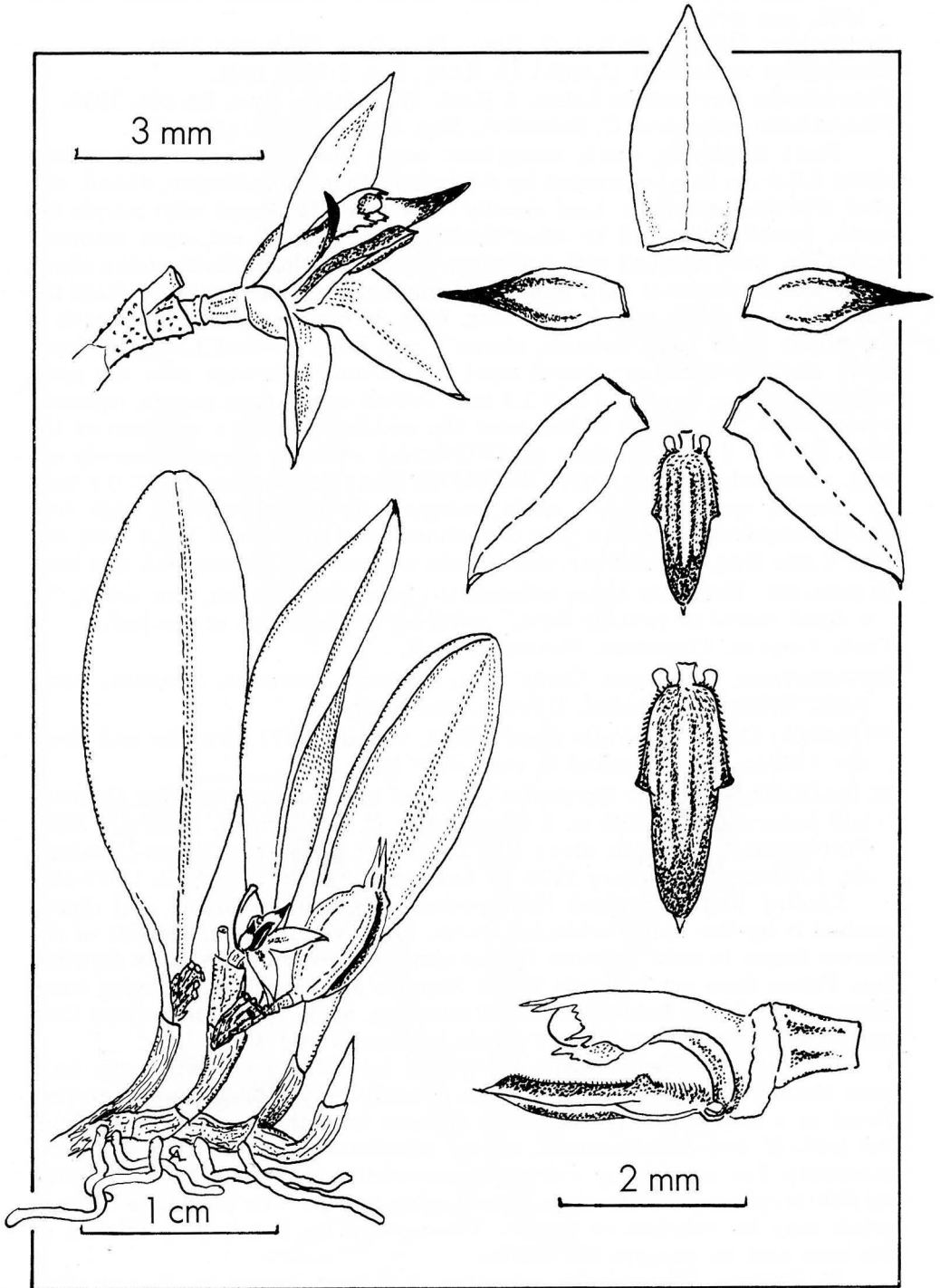


Figure 32. *PLEUROTHALLIS LASIOGLOSSA* Schltr.