

**Pleurothallis psychion** Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Cartago?: Chitaria?, sent to L.O. Williams by *C.H. Lankester s.n.* (SEL). Fig. 24.

Planta parvula radicibus crassis, foliis crassis linearibus convolutis, ramicaulibus brevibus laxe

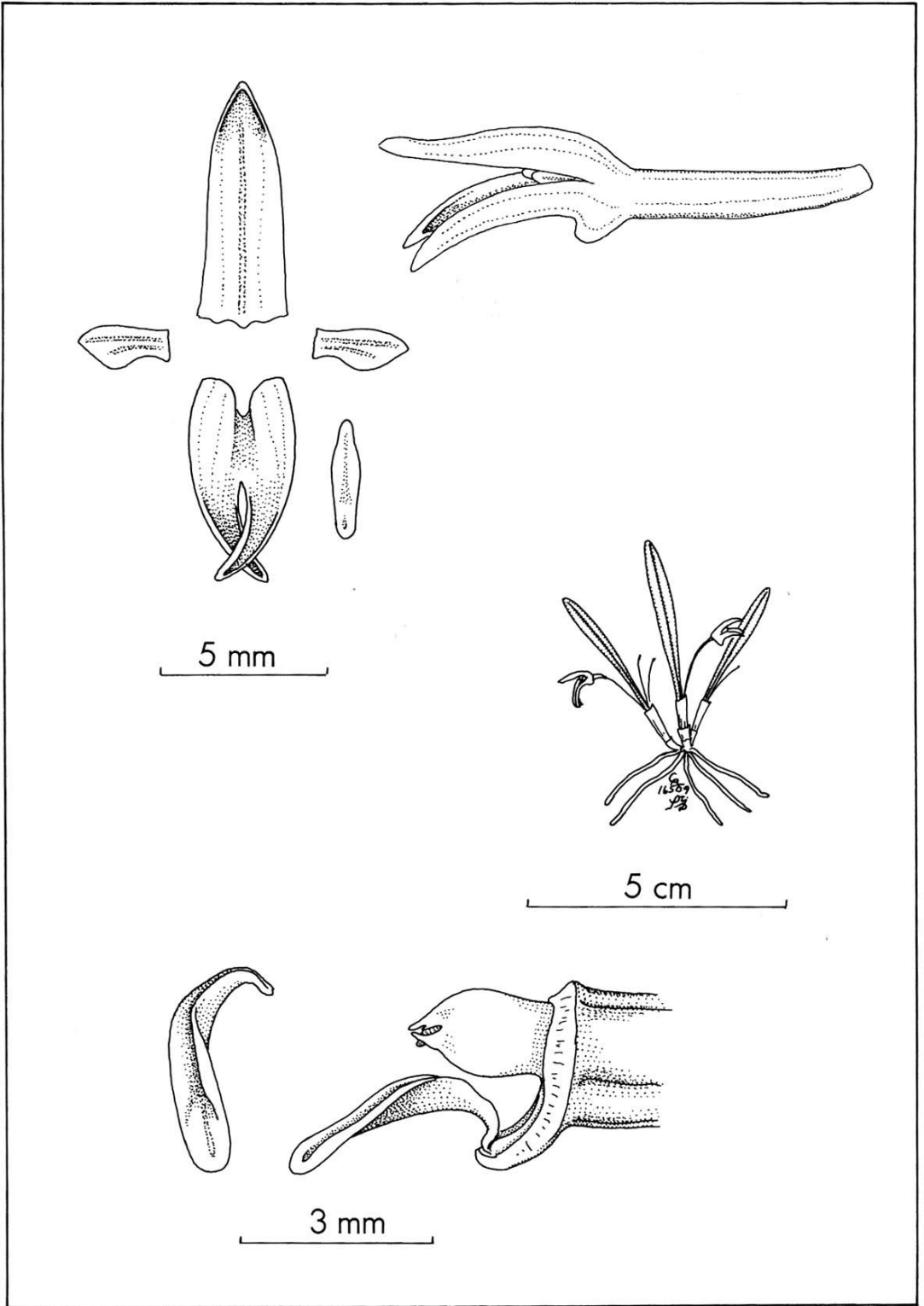


Fig. 24. *Pleurothallis psychion*

vaginatiss, floribus solitaribus longipedicellatis, sepalis acutis lateralibus semiconnatis, petalis acutis obliquis ventricosis, labello oblongo arcuato canaliculato, infra medium conduplicato apice rotundo.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots proportionately thick. Ramicauls short, erect, 6–10 mm long, enclosed by a loose tubular sheath, and another sheath at the base. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, linear-oblong, convolute, acute, subpetiolate, 2–3 cm long, 2–3 mm wide, narrowly cuneate below to the base. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of single, successive flowers, borne from the ramicaul within the sheath by a peduncle ca. 1 mm long; floral bracts 3–4 mm long; pedicels 7–10 mm long; ovary 4–7 mm long; flowers stated to be dull orange; **sepals** subcarinate, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate-triangular, acute, 7.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate-triangular, oblique, acute, connate 2 mm to below the middle, 6.5 mm long, 3 mm wide together, 6-veined; **petals** membranous, obovate, oblique, acute, 3 mm long, 1.4 mm wide, with the labellar margin dilated; **lip** fleshy, oblong, arcuate, 3.5 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, longitudinally channeled with the sides of the lip more or less erect and thickened below the middle, the base decurved, hinged to the column-foot; **column** thick, semiterete, denticulate at the apex, 2 mm long, the foot 1 mm long, the anther and stigma hooded and ventral.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek *psychion*, “a tiny bit or crumb,” referring to the insignificant plant.

This small species of subgenus *Specklinia* section *Hymenodanthe* has features that would place it between subsection *Apodae-Caespitosae* and subsection *Longicaulae*. The fasciculate pedicels suggest the former, but the simple, oblong, channeled lip is more suggestive of the latter. My feeling is to place it in the latter as an exceptional species with an abbreviated peduncle with an abbreviated raceme. The species is apparently rare, known only by the original collection. In his letter accompanying the specimen sent to L. O. Williams, Lankester stated, “flowers closed up, are dull orange like many other little doodads.” It is distinguished by the small, slender, thick, convolute leaves borne by abbreviated ramicauls that are concealed by loose sheaths. The roots are proportionately thick for the size of the plant. The

flowers are produced singly and successively on elongated pedicels from a very short, 1 mm long peduncle hidden within the sheath of the ramicaul. The only flowers present were already passing as indicated by Lankester. Nevertheless, they were in reasonably good condition for hydration and dissection, although the column was swollen. The sepals are acute; the petals are ventricose, and the oblong lip is arcuate, channeled and more or less conduplicate below the middle.