

***Pleurothallis tempestalis* Luer, sp. nov.**

Habitu et floribus *P. divexae* Ames similis, sed carinis denticulatis sepalorum et callis lobo anticoque labelli bene circumscriptis differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fine, flexuous. Secondary stems short, terete, 7-10 mm long, unifoliate, with 1-2 thin tubular sheaths at the base. Leaf coriaceous, narrowly obovate, obtuse, tridenticulate, the base narrowly cuneate-petiolate, 13-18 mm long, 4-5 mm wide. Inflorescence a flexible, flexuous, several- to many-flowered, distichous raceme to 8 cm long, the flowers produced singly and successively; peduncle filiform, ascending from a 1 mm spathe at a node on the secondary stem; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2-3 mm long; ovary verrucose, 1 mm long; sepals red-brown, oblong, the apices attenuated into slender tails, 7 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the caudae 3.5 mm long, the dorsal sepal tricarinate, the carinae tall, coarsely and broadly denticulate, the tail slightly clavellate, the lateral sepals more or less sigmoid, united basally, each bicarinate similar to the dorsal sepal; petals elliptical, oblique, acute, lacerate near the middle, 2 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, yellow with a red vein; lip fleshy, more or less oblong, obtusely lobed near the base, with thick, red, papillose calli near the middle, separated from each other and the well circumscribed rounded, red-papillose, apical lobe by a smooth, orange convex surface, the base bilobed, papillose, shortly hinged to the column-foot, 2 mm long, 1 mm wide; column yellow, slender, 2 mm long, with a prominent, bilobed foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *tempestas*, "bad weather," and *-alis*, "belonging or pertaining to," in allusion to the cold, wet windy weather which prevails most of the time where this species grows.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: epiphytic in stunted trees near the pass at km 14 east of Loja, alt. 2800 m, 6 March 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & K. Cordoba 1570 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Ecuador.

Along with *Pleurothallis ichthyonekys* and *P. lenticularis*, *P. tempestalis* grows on the mossy branches of stunted trees which endure a nearly constant tempest near the mountain crest. As a fierce wind beats a frigid mist through the mossy boughs, the delicate, little flowers of these species are whipped to and fro without suffering the slightest injury. Transfer to a warm, tranquil habitat would certainly spell their doom.

In habit and flowers this species is similar to the Costa Rican *P. divexa* Ames, but it differs in the coarsely denticulate carinae of the sepals, and in the well-demarcated calli and anterior lobe of the lip, which are densely covered by red papillae. A distinct orange belt of smooth tissue separates them.

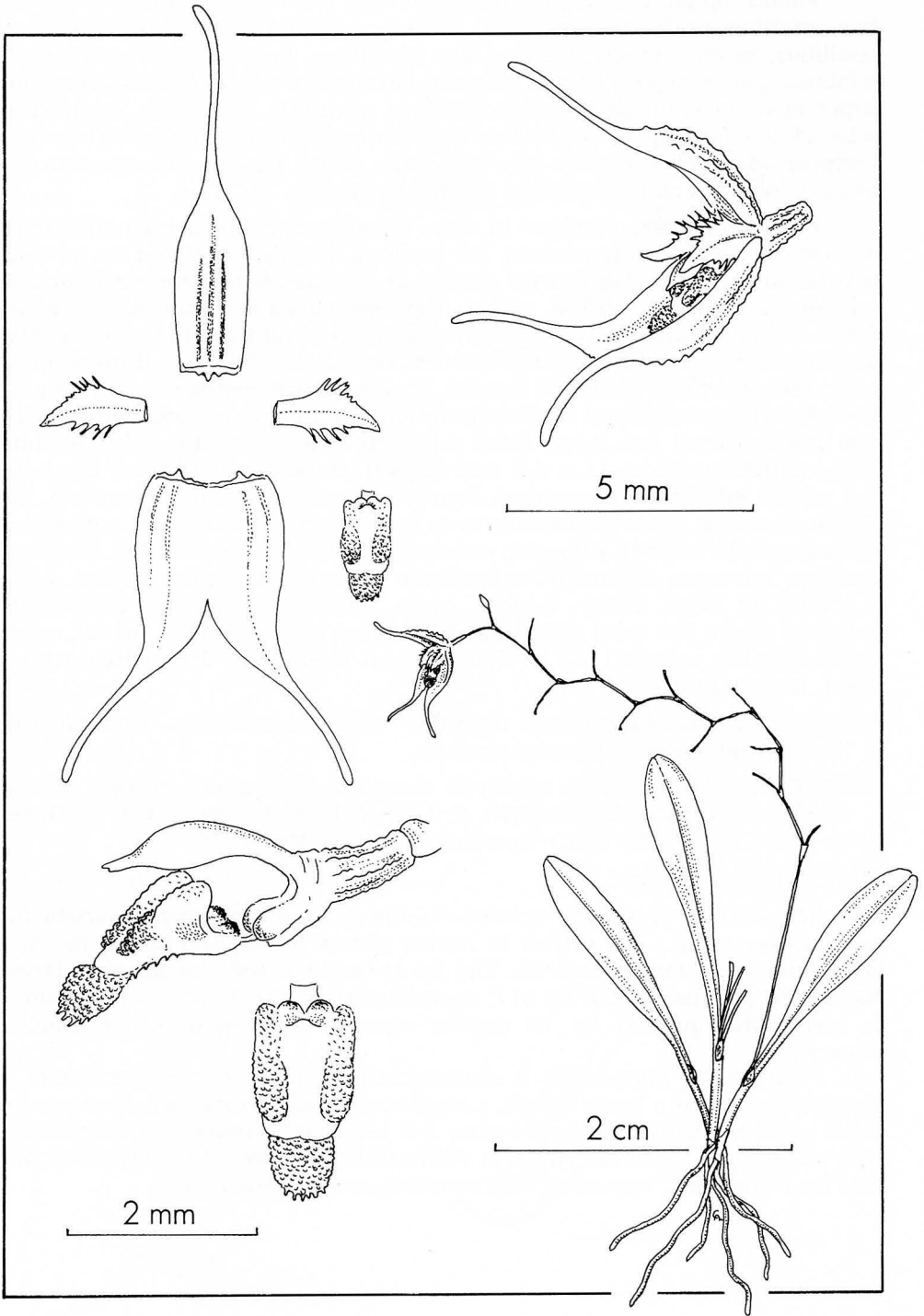


Figure 298. *PLEUROTHALLIS TEMPESTALIS* Luer