

Pleurothallis conochila Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Limón: Canton de Talamanca, Fila de exploración minera entre Río Sukut y Río Carbrí, Muragubishi, alt. 700 m, *F. Solís, G. Herrera & A. Chacón 24* (Holotype: MO; Isotype: CR). Fig. 14.

Species haec *P. thymochilae* Luer similis, sed sepalorum lateralium marginibus non-inflexis, et labello anguste conico transverse rugoso differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3–5 cm long, enclosed by a thin, tubular sheath below the middle and 2 shorter sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, subsessile, 5–8 cm long, 1.5–2 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the base. **Inflorescence** a distantly, several-flowered, subflexuous raceme, up to 22 cm long including the slender peduncle 11–12 cm long, 2–3 flowers open simultaneously, borne from near the apex of the ramicaul, barely 1 mm below the abscission layer, with a slender spathe 6–7 mm long; floral bracts 3–4 mm long; pedicel 10–11 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; **sepals** dark red-purple, glabrous, the dorsal sepal elliptical-ovate, acute, concave, 8 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate to near the apex into an elliptical, bifid, bicarinate, concave lamina, 9 mm long, 5.5 mm wide expanded, the carinae tall and irregular at the acute apices;

petals light purple, broadly elliptical-obovate, rounded at the apex, concave, purple-papillose externally, 4 mm long, 2.3 mm wide, 3-veined, with the veins prominent on the inner surface; **lip** dark purple, fleshy, narrowly ovoid, 3-lobed, 4.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, with the margins thin and erect in the basal fourth forming broadly rounded lobes above the base, the apical lobe thick, narrowly conical, acute, transversely rugose, convex, the base hinged to the tip of the column-foot; **column** red, stout, semiterete, 2 mm long, with the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral, the foot 1 mm long with the apex free.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *konocheilos*, “with a conical lip,” referring to the shape of the lip.

In habit this species is inseparable from *P. thymochila* from eastern Panama, both being characterized by an elliptical, obtuse, subpetiolate leaf, an inconspicuous spathe, and an elongated, loose raceme of long-pedicellate, medium-sized, purple flowers. It is distinguished from the latter by the non-inflexed sides of the lateral sepals and a narrowly conical lip with the disc transversely rugose and convex. The thin, rounded, erect basal lobes are similar in both species.

PARATYPES: COSTA RICA. Puntarenas: Monteverde Reserve, Cerro Ojo de Agua, Cedral, epiphytic, alt. 1600 m, 6 May 1988, *E. Bello 181* (CR); Monteverde, above Quebrada Cuecha, alt. 1540–1600 m, 4 June 1976, *V. J. Dryer 128* (CR).

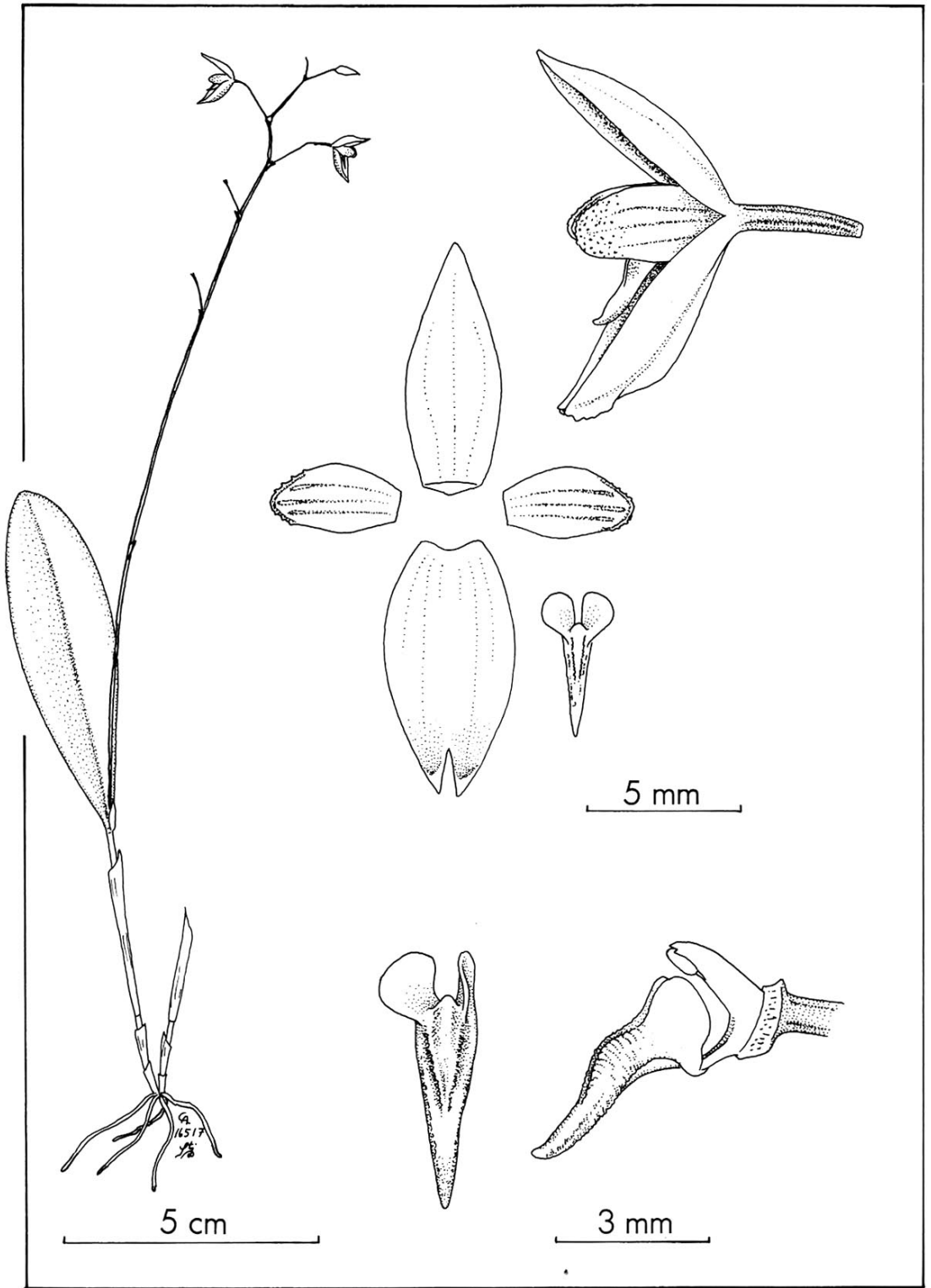


Fig. 14. *Pleurothallis conochila*