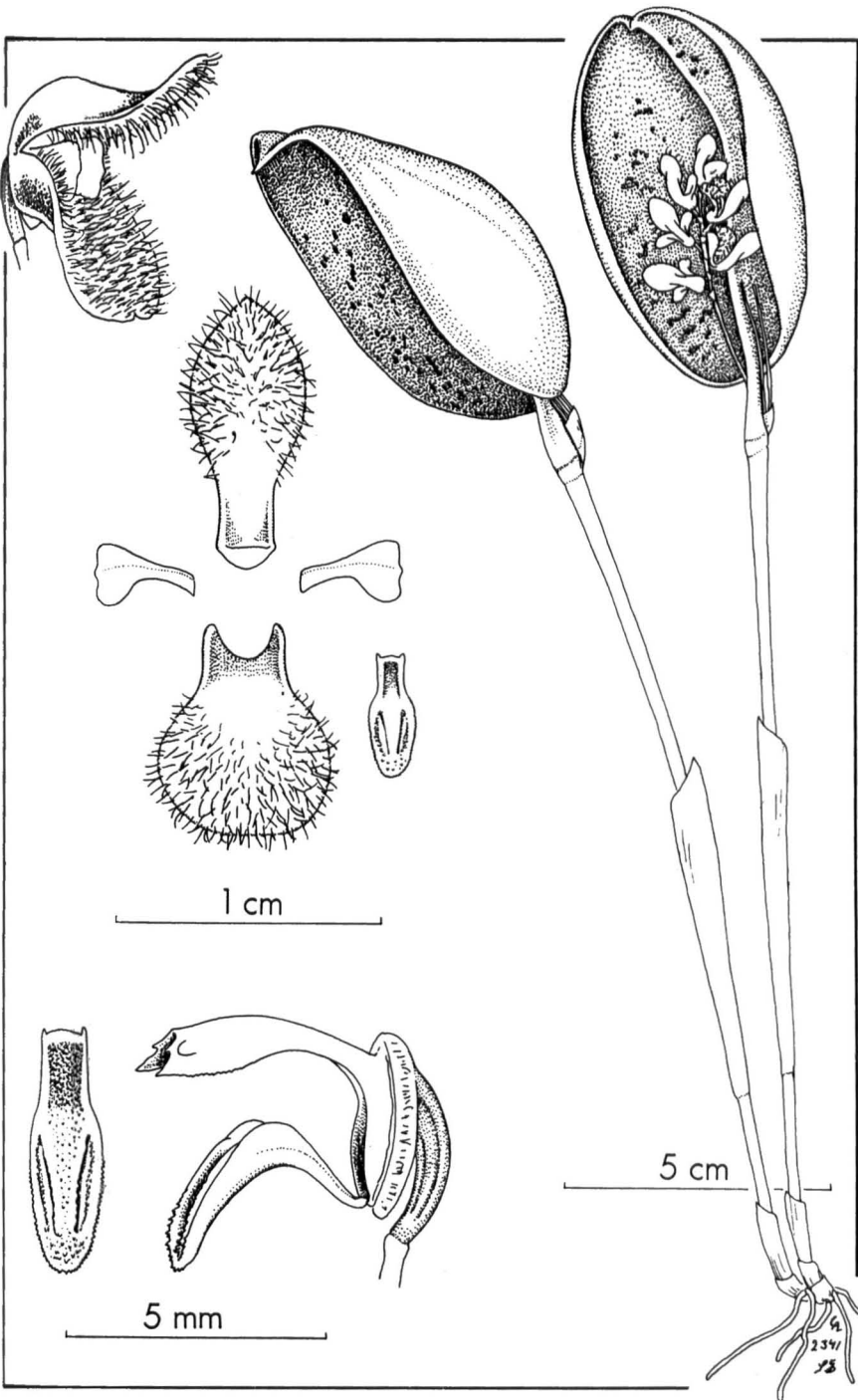


8. **PLEUROTHALLIS ERUCOSA** Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Species haec *Pleurothallis imraei* Lindl. affinis, sed folio infra profunde concavo lateribus revolutis, sepalis densissime villosis et petalis spathulatis truncatis differt.



8. *PLEUROTHALLIS ERUCOSA* Luer & Escobar.

**TYPE:** COLOMBIA: Without collection data, flowered in cultivation by M. and O. Robledo at La Ceja, 28 Jan. 1978, C. Luer 2341 (Holotype: SEL).

**ETIMOLOGÍA:** Del latín *erucosus* (lleno de orugas), en alusión al racimo situado dentro de la hoja revoluta.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Latin *erucosus*, «full of caterpillars,» in allusion to the raceme within the revolute leaf.

**Plant** medium in size to large, presumably epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** erect, stout, 15-30 cm long, compressed above, enclosed by a long, loose, tubular sheath below the middle, and 2-3 other sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical, rigidly convex with revolute sides, with the obtuse apex shortly acute and decurved, mottled with purple within, petiolate, 8-11 cm long, ca. 4 cm wide unexpanded, 5-8 cm wide expanded, rounded below, abruptly contracted into a stout petiole 1 cm long. **Inflorescence** an erect, congested, distichous, simultaneously several-flowered raceme, 4-5 cm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle ca. 2 cm long, subtended by a spathe 1 cm long, from an annulus 5 mm below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 3 mm long; pedicels 5-6 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals glabrous and yellow externally, yellowish white within, covered with a long, dense, white pubescence above the base, the dorsal sepal obovate, obtuse, 10 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for less than 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate into an obovate synsepal, 8 mm long, 7 mm wide, broadly rounded at the apex, forming a small mentum below the column-foot; petals translucent yellow, spatulate, 4 mm long, 2.25 mm wide at the apex, the apex broadly truncate, narrowly unguiculate for the lower half; lip brown, oblong-ovate, arcuate, 4.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the apex rounded, verrucose, denticulate, the disc with a pair of longitudinal, verrucose calli within the margins above the middle, the base broadly unguiculate, truncate, minutely lobulate at the corners, hinged to the column-foot; column greenish white, shallowly winged above the middle, denticulate at the apex, 4.5 mm long, the anther and stigma ventral, the foot 2.5 mm long.

La especie parece ser rara, conociéndose tan sólo de una planta cultivada. Tiene claro parentesco con *P. imraei*, aunque en el aspecto vegetativo la hoja —grande y ovada— se distingue por la convexidad pronunciada de la superficie dorsal, con la consiguiente concavidad profunda del envés. El racimo nace de la base de un pecíolo robusto y se extiende por el envés de la hoja, dentro de la cavidad. La imagen es la de unas orugas peludas aglomeradas dentro de una hoja enroscada, cosa

que se ve a menudo. Los sépalos tienen la superficie interior cubierta de una pubescencia densa, blanca, largamente vilosa; los pétalos son espatulados y truncados, la mitad inferior angostamente unguiculada; el labelo es arqueado, con el ápice denticulado y verrugoso, y el disco adornado con un par de callos similares.

This species is apparently rare, known only from a cultivated plant. It is obviously related to *P. imraei*, but vegetatively the large, egg-shaped leaf is distinct with the markedly convex dorsal surface. Consequently, it is deeply concave from behind. The raceme is borne up the back of the leaf within the cavity from the base of a distinct, stout petiole. It appears as if some fuzzy caterpillars had entrenched themselves within a rolled-up leaf, a sight familiar to most of us. The sepals are covered by a dense, long-villous, white pubescence within; the petals are spatulate and truncate, and narrowly unguiculate on the lower half; and the arcuate lip is denticulate and verrucose at the apex, and with a similar pair of calli on the disc.