

Pleurothallis laminata Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 33.

Ety.: From the Latin *laminatus*, "lamine," referring to the tall, thin calli of the lip.

Species haec *P. ligulatae* Lindl. affinis, sed floribus majoribus purpurascens, sepalis acutis intus pubescentibus, petalis ovatis et labello oblongo bilaminato distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls suffused with purple, fasciculate, slender, erect, 4-8 cm long, with a long, tubular sheath along the middle, and 2-3 imbricating sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, rigidly coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, narrowly elliptical, acute to subacute, petiolate, the blade 6-8 cm long including the slender petiole 1.5 cm long, 1.5-2 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a single, subsecund, subdense, simultaneously several-flowered raceme, 18 cm long including the peduncle 9 cm long, subtended by a slender spathe 1.5 cm long; floral bracts infundibular, 5-6 mm long; pedicels 1-2 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; **sepals** purple, densely short-pubescent within, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, concave, 10-12 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals elliptical-oblong, acute, oblique, 10-11 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 4-5 mm; **petals** translucent, ovate, narrowly obtuse, 4-5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** purple, elliptical-oblong, with the sides erect below the middle, 3-4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded, the disc slightly concave between tall, broadly rounded calli just within the margins below the middle, with a transverse callus above a small basal cavity, articulated with the column-foot; **column** stout, 1.75 mm long, the base thickened, pedestal-like, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

ECUADOR: **Loja**: epiphytic in elfin forest at the pass between Loja and Saraguro, alt. 2950 m, collected Jan. 1992, flowered in cultivation by P. & J. Jesup in Bristol, CT, 21 May 1992, *C. Luer 16247* (Holotype: MO). **Azuay**: Quebradas leading into Río Collay, north of Sevilla de Oro, alt. 7,000-8,300 ft., 27 Aug. 1945, *W. H. Camp E-4990* (NY), *C. Luer* illustr 17069.

This species is related to the widely distributed group of species identified herein as *P. ligulata*. *Pleurothallis laminata* is characterized by the medium-sized habit with a thick, rigid, elliptical, petiolate leaf, acute at the apex and suffused with purple. The solitary inflorescence of comparatively large, gaping, purple flowers, surpasses the leaf twice its length. The sepals are acute and shortly pubescent within, and the petals are ovate with a narrowly obtuse apex. The lip is oblong with a tall, thin, broadly rounded lamella within each margin of the basal half.

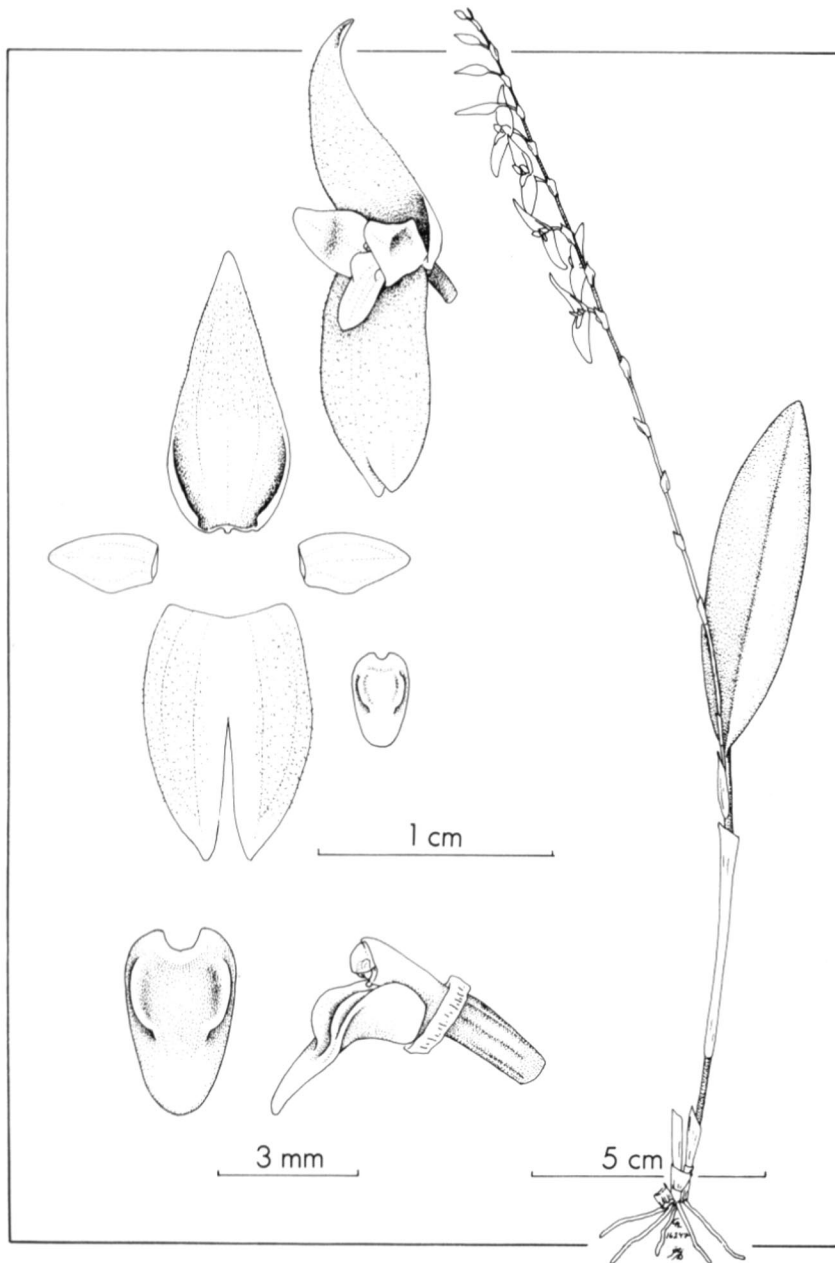


Fig. 33. *Pleurothallis laminata*