

Pleurothallis pellucida Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 45.

Ety.: From the Latin *pellucidus*, "transparent," referring to sepaline tube.

Species haec *P. ligulata* Lindl. affinis, sed foliis latioribus cum racemo plus minusve aequilongis, spatha longiore et sepalis longioribus differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots numerous, slender. Ramicauls fasciculate, erect, 8-12 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath near the middle and 2-3 tubular sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-oblong, subacute to obtuse, 6-11 cm long, 2-2.5 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 7-8 mm long. **Inflorescence** a subdense, secund, simultaneously many-flowered raceme 12-14 cm long including the peduncle 4-5 cm long, subtended by a slender spathe 18-22 mm long, from an annulus 2-3 mm below the abscission layer; floral bracts 6-7 mm long, enclosing pedicel; pedicels 3 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** translucent greenish white, elliptical-oblong, acute, ciliate, lightly pubescent within, the dorsal concave, 9 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 3 mm, to form a sepaline tube, the lateral sepals 8.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 4 mm; **petals** dark purple, obovate, obtuse, 4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** dark purple, thick, elliptical with the sides erect, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex rounded, the sides with intramural calli below the middle, the disc concave between the calli, and with a transverse callus above the narrowly concave base, firmly attached to the column-foot; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, the foot thick, 1 mm long, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Azuay: epiphytic in scrub vegetation south of Cuenca, alt. 3000 m, 17 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & J. Kuijt 9629 (Holotype: MO).

This seldomly collected species occurs in scrub vegetation in high, semi-arid terrain in southern Ecuador. It is closely allied to the *P. ligulata*-complex, but it is distinguished from the latter by the much broader, shortly petiolate leaves and a

shorter raceme barely longer than the leaf. The semitubular flowers apparently do not open widely. The sepals are longer and translucent greenish white which permits the dark purple petals and lip to shine through. The petals are broad, concave and three-veined. The lip is oblong with calli below the middle within the walls of the erect sides.

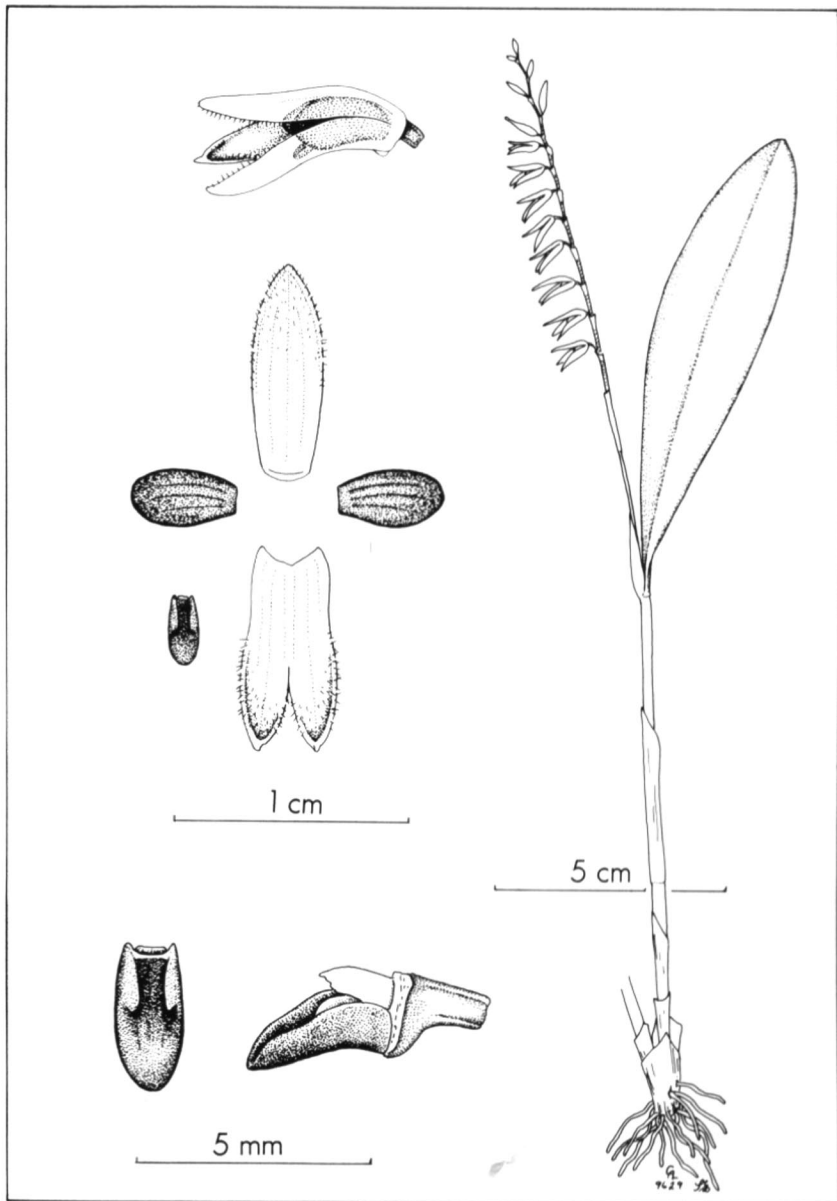


Fig. 46. *Pleurothallis pellucida*