

***Pleurothallis thymochila*, Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta epiphytica mediocris caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis vaginatis, foliis erectis coriaceis ellipticis obtusis sessilibus, racemo longo flexuoso laxo plurifloro, flores marroninis carnosus bilabiatis parvis, sepalo dorsali elliptico lateribus involutis, sepalis lateralibus supra medium connatis concavis lateribus unvolutis bicarinatis, carinis serratis ad apicibus acutis, petalis late obovatis concavis margine apicis involuto verruculoso, labello elliptico trilobato, lobo antico ligulato crasso verrucoso obtuso, lobis lateralibus tenuibus rotundatis erectis.

Plant epiphytic, medium in size, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 3-5 cm long, largely concealed by a loose, tubular sheath, with 1-2 shorter sheaths at the base, unifoliate. Leaf coriaceous, erect, elliptical, obtuse, retuse, the base cuneate, sessile or subsessile, 5-8 × 2-3 cm. Inflorescence a suberect, loose, several-flowered, slightly flexuous raceme, up to 28 cm long, the dark red, fleshy, bilabiate flowers opening a few at a time; peduncle slender, from a narrow spathe 6-9 mm long, at the base of the leaf; floral bract infundibular, acute, 3 mm long; pedicel 6-10 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; dorsal sepal elliptical, acute, the sides involute in the natural position, 11 × 4.5 mm spread; lateral sepals connate to above the middle into an ovate synsepal, concave, the sides involute, bicarinate, the 2 carinae serrate, each terminating in an acute apex, 11 × 7 mm together and spread; petals broadly obovate, concave, the apex rounded with incurved margins, verrucose externally, subcarinate internally along the 3 veins, 4.5 × 2.5 mm; lip thick, fleshy, 3-lobes, ovate, obtuse, maroon and extensively papillose above the basal lobes, the basal lobes large, rounded, white, erect, embracing the column, 5 × 2 mm; column stout, red, 2 mm long with a short, narrow foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *thymos*, "warty excrescences," and *cheilos*, "lip," in reference to the verrucose lip.

TYPE: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic along the El Llano-Carti road, alt. ca. 350 m, collected 3 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. L. Dressler 992 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), flowered in cult 26 May 1976.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This species is closely related to the Central American *Pleurothallis pachyglossa* Lindl., but differs in having obtuse leaves, and longer racemes with more but smaller flowers. The lip is broader and thicker with larger basal lobes, similar to the lip of *P. tuerckheimii* Schltr, but from the latter it is easily distinguished by its smaller stature, small spathe, and smaller flowers.

Pleurothallis thymochila is characterized by its oblong, obtuse leaves, a slender stem with a loose sheath, a small spathe, and a long, lax, flexuous raceme of 5-9 small, maroon flowers, 2-3 reaching anthesis simultaneously. The sides of the sepals are rolled in with toothed carinae of the lateral sepals. The lip is thick and verrucose with rounded, erect lateral lobes.

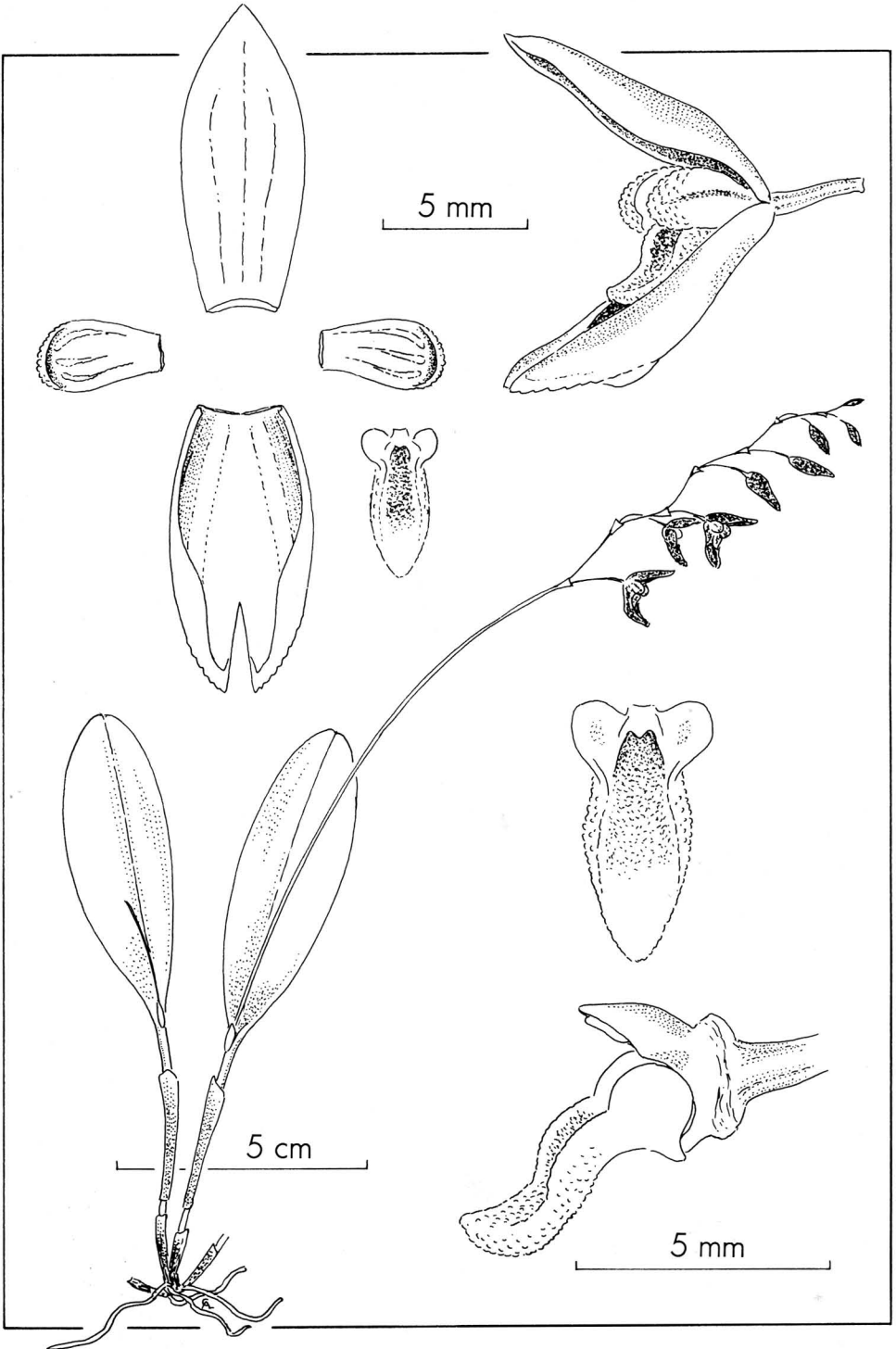


Figure 299. PLEUROTHALLIS THYMOCHILA Luer