

Pleurothallis zunagensis Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 72.

Ety.: Named for the remote Río Zuñag where this species was discovered.

Species haec *P. velaticaulis* Rchb.f. affinis, sed racemis folio brevioribus, labello quam columna multiminore cum lobo antico convexo et cum cavitate basali minutissima differt.

Plant medium to large in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots numerous, slender. Ramicauls fasciculate, erect, 12-17 cm long, enclosed by a long, tubular sheath above the middle and 2-3 other tubular sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, petiolate, 10-12 cm long, 3-3.3 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1 cm long. **Inflorescence** 1-3 subdense, secund, simultaneously many-flowered racemes, 11-12 cm long including the peduncle 2-5 cm long, subtended by a slender spathe ca. 1 cm long, from an annulus 1 cm below the abscission layer; floral bracts infundibular, 3-4 mm long, enclosing pedicel; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** yellow, ovate, carinate, subacute, concave below the middle, convex with revolute sides above the middle, sparsely short-ciliate, the dorsal 5.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals 5.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** yellow, obovate, obtuse, 2.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, thick, ovate-trilobed, 1.25 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, the apex rounded, convex, cellular-glandular, the lateral lobes below the middle, erect, rounded, callous-thickened, the disc concave between the lobes, and with a broad, transverse callus above the minutely concave base, articulated to the tip of the column-foot; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the foot thick, 1 mm long with the apex free, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

ECUADOR: **Pastaza**: epiphytic in cloud forest along Río Zuñag, alt. 2400 m, 28 Feb. 1990, A. Hirtz, S. Dalström et al. 4628 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 14937.

This species is similar to *P. velaticaulis*, but differs in the long, tubular, cauline sheath above the middle, shorter racemes, flowers with the sides of the sepals markedly revolute, and the most distinctive lip. The lip is smaller than the short, thick column, and articulated to the tip of the free base of the column by a very small, superficial, basal cavity. The apical lobe is convex with a callus. The lobes near the middle are erect and rounded with the anterior margin thickened. Below the middle the disc is concave.

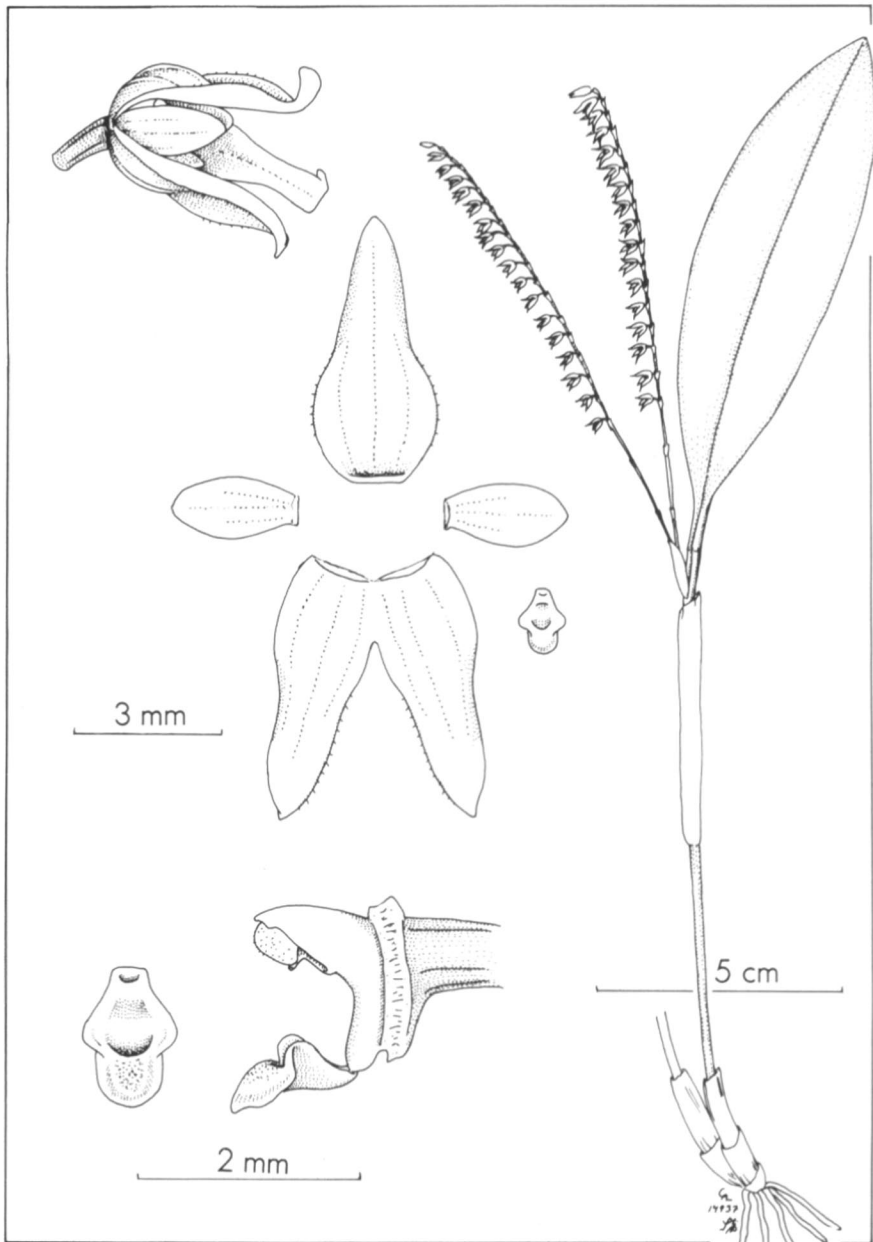


Fig. 72. *Pleurothallis zunagensis*