

*Pleurothallis pyxos* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta pusilla vel grandis repens vel erecta ramificans caespitosa fruticosa, caulibus secundariis prolificantibus unifoliatis brevibus vel longis tenuibus vel crassis vaginis lepanthiformibus, racemo tenui paucifloro folio parvo elliptico duplolongiore, floribus eburneis, sepalis angustissime ovatis acutis crassis carinatis, petalis ellipticis acutis, labello minutissimo ligulato subtrilobato bicalloso lobis basalibus rotundatis.

Plant very small to large and shrub-like, to 80 cm or more high, epiphytic, erect to repent, branching, caespitose at apices of secondary stems; roots slender, fasciculate. Secondary stems proliferating, unifoliolate, slender, mostly 0.5-1 cm long with 2 sheaths, but the major supporting stems stout, to 16 cm or more long with up to 11 sheaths, the sheaths imbricating, tubular, costate, with dilated, oblique ostia, ciliate along the margins and ribs. Leaves thick, oblong-elliptic, 6-11 mm long, 4-7 mm wide, the rounded apex tridenticulate, the base cuneate into a 1-2 mm long petiole. Inflorescence a weak, loose, subsuccund, 3- to 6-flowered raceme, 15-25 mm long including the filiform peduncle, from the apex of a secondary stem; floral bract infundibular, 2 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long, microscopically subverrucose; flowers glabrous, pale yellow; dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, 3.5-4 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined, concave below, the apex long-acuminate, acute, thickened along the midrib; lateral sepals connate only at the base, narrowly triangular-linear, 3.5-4 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 1-veined, acute, thickened along the midrib, sulcate within; petals elliptical, acute, membranous, 1 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 1-veined; lip oblong-ligulate, indistinctly 3-lobed, 1.5 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, dilated in the basal third with erect, rounded margins, the middle lobe oblong, thickened at the rounded apex, the disc with a pair of small rounded lamellae near the junction of the lower and middle thirds; column proportionately large and thick, 1 mm long, with an obsolescent foot.

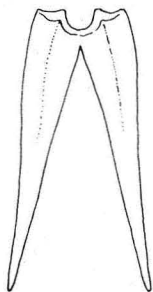
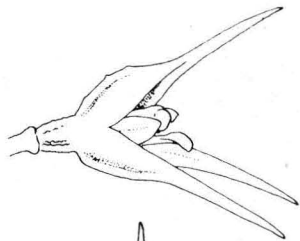
ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *pyxos* (πυξος), "the shrub boxwood," in allusion to the habit of the plant.

Del griego *pyxos* (πυξος), "boj (una planta)," que hace alusión al hábito de las plantas.

TYPE: COLOMBIA: CAUCA: Munic. of San Sebastian, Central Cordillera, epiphytic in cold cloud forest near Km 88, road from La Vega to Paramo de Barbillas, alt. 3070 m, *C. Luer, J. Luer, J. Kuhn & R. Escobar 3047* (HOLOTYPE. SEL; ISOTYPE: JAUM).

DISTRIBUTION: Colombia, Central Cordillera.

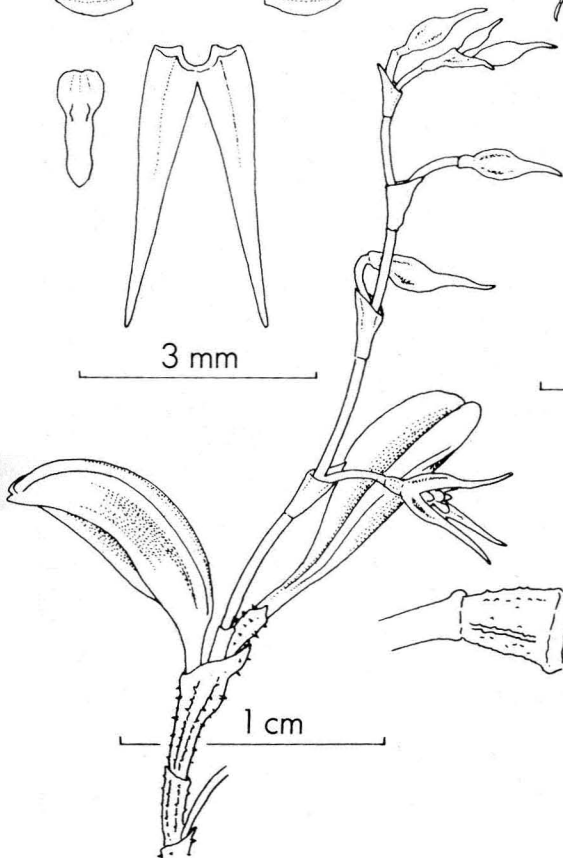
A large plant of this remarkable pleurothallid resembles a shrub. Large mats of the plant drape over and along large reclining trunks of trees in the cold forest of the paramo. Supporting secondary stems are large and coarse, giving rise at nodes (the apices of secondary stems) to other supporting stems, or to dense, caespitose aggregations of short, proliferating, secondary stems. The latter accumulate congested masses of leaves that resemble the leafy branches of the European boxwood (*Buxus* sp.) commonly used as a hedge.



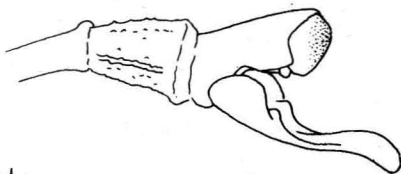
3 mm



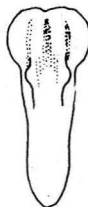
5 cm



1 cm



1 mm



Una colonia grande de esta notable pleurotalídea semeja un arbusto. Las plantas forman grandes alfombras que tapizan la parte superior de enormes troncos inclinados en los bosques fríos del páramo. Los tallos secundarios de soporte son grandes y ásperos, y de sus nudos (los ápices de los tallos secundarios) salen otros tallos de soporte o conglomerados cespitosos, densos, de tallos secundarios cortos, prolíferos. En el segundo caso se forman masas apretadas de hojas que semejan las ramas llenas de hojas del boj europeo (*Buxus* sp.), que se usa frecuentemente para setos.