

***Pleurothallis dirhamphis* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus unifoliatis vaginis lepanthiformibus, foliis coriaceis ellipticis subacutis vel obtusis base cuneatis breviter petiolatis, racemo multifloro folio multo longiore pedunculo filiformi, floribus flavescensibus, sepalis libris anguste ovatis acuminatis acutis subcarinatis sepalis lateralibus obliquis, petalis obovatis apice obtusis minute erosis vel praemorsis, labello oblongo obtuso lobis basalibus hamulatis incurvis disco bicalloso.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filamentous, flexuous. Secondary stems very slender, 3-9 cm long, concealed by 2-7 tightly fitting, tubular, costate, scabrous, imbricating sheaths with oblique, dilated, ciliated ostia, unifoliolate, occasionally prolific. Leaf dark green, often suffused with purple, coriaceous, elliptical to narrowly elliptical, subacute to obtuse, tridentulate, the base cuneate, shortly petiolate, 2-4 cm long (including the 1-5 mm petiole) and 7-16 mm broad. Inflorescence racemose, solitary, laxly few- to many-flowered, to 18 cm long, the peduncle slender, from the apex of the stem; floral bract acute, 2-3 mm long; pedicel 2-4 mm long; ovary 0.5-1 mm long; flowers glabrous, pale yellow-green to bright yellow; sepals free, narrowly ovate, acuminate, acute, subcarinate, the lateral sepals oblique, 8-15 mm long, 2-4 mm wide, 3-veined; petals broadly obovate, the apex obtuse to rounded, erose, 2.75-3 mm long, 1.25-2.25 mm wide; lip yellow, suffused with rose, with 3 red veins beneath, oblong, the apex obtuse to rounded, convex, the margins upcurved near or below the middle, the base folded and incurved to form a pair of hook-shaped lobes, the disc with a pair of low parallel calli running forward from the basal lobes, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide; column stout, 1.5 mm long, the foot bulbous.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *di-*, "two-," and *rhamphis*, "hook, or barb," referring to the pair of hook-like basal lobes of the lip.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: NAPO: epiphytic in felled trees about 14 km north of Archidona, alt. 600 m, Aug. 1975, *C. Luer, G. Luer & S. Wilhelm 661* (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 44-75-120, flowered in cult. 25 March 1976.

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: AZUAY: west of Cuenca, May 1973, *Janet Kuhn 16* (SEL), flowered in cult. 16 Feb. 1976, epiphytic in cloud forest, alt. ca. 2500 m, between Cuenca and Guayaquil, 1 March 1977, *C. Luer, J. Luer & K. Cordoba 1479* (SEL); PICHINCHA: epiphytic in mossy tree near km 80 between Quito and Santo Domingo, alt. ca. 1500 m, 17 Aug. 1976, *C. H. Dodson 5959* (SEL).

This species, a member of the section characterized by lepanthiform cauline sheaths, is distinguished by a laxly many-flowered raceme twice to several times as long as the elliptical leaf. The larger-flowered specimens are very showy. The sepals of the yellow flowers are free and acuminate. The rounded apex of the petals is erose. The lip is entire except at the base where a pair of incurved, hooked lobes are formed by the infolding of the margins.

Pleurothallis dirhamphis is probably closely allied to the smaller *P. chaemalepanthes* Rchb. f. which is characterized by short, few-flowered racemes. The lips of the two species are probably very similar.

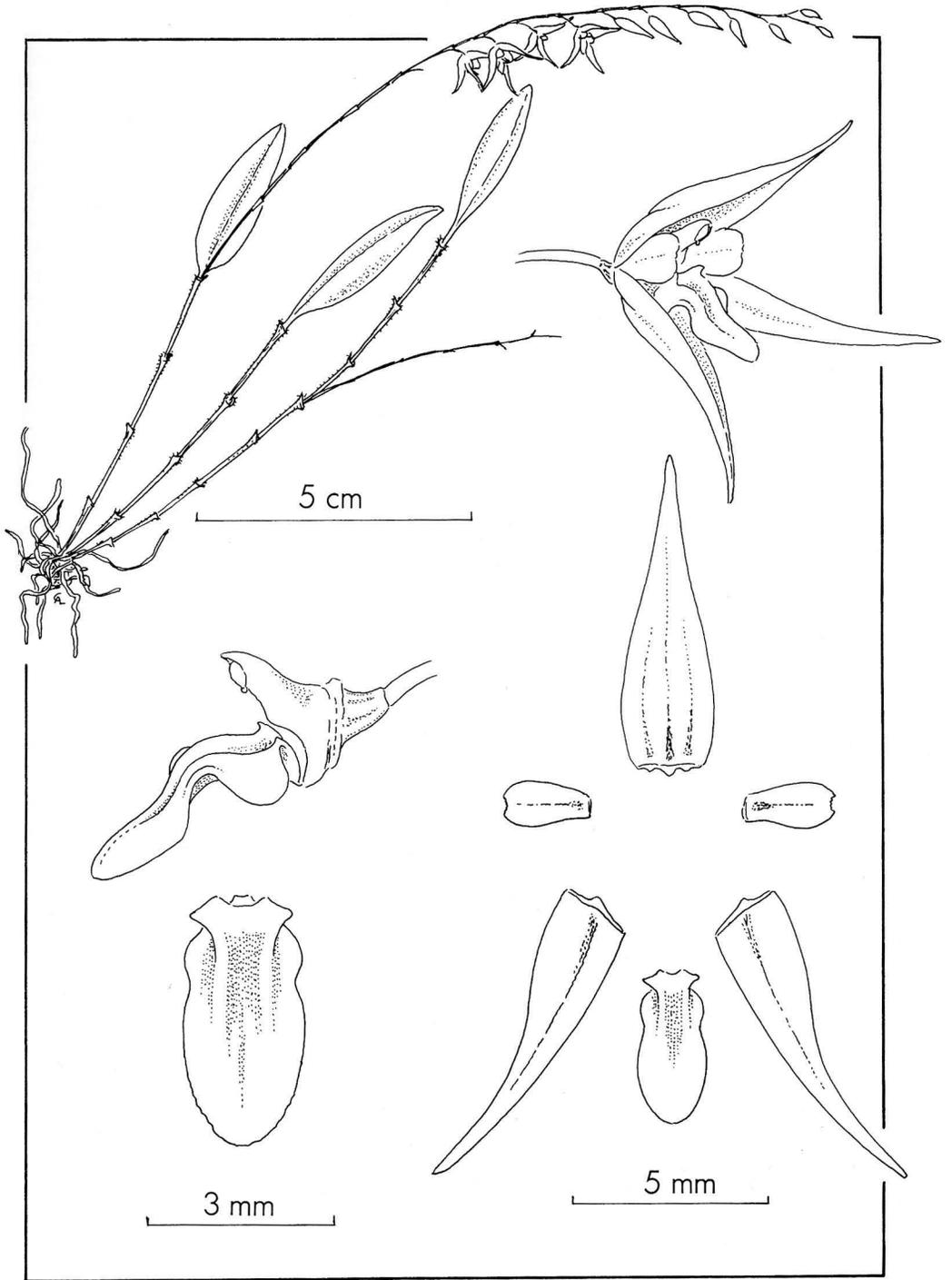


Figure 246. *PLEUROTHALLIS DIRHAMPHIS* Luer