

Pleurothallis pumila Luer, sp. nov.

Planta pumila caespitosa epiphytica, caulibus secundariis abbreviatis unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis suborbicularibus marginatis, racemo paucifloro, floribus citrinis, sepalo dorsali late ovato concavo breviter acuminato, sepalis lateralibus anguste linearibus acutis basi connatis cum pede columnae mentum formantibus, petalis ellipticis manis, labello ovato indistincte trilobato, lobo medio oblongo apice rotundato, lobis lateralibus semi-orbicularibus, disco bilamellato.

Plant very small, caespitose, epiphytic; roots filamentous, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, stout, about 3 mm long, clothed by 1-2 thin, evanescent sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf coriaceous, broadly elliptical to sub-orbicular, marginate, obtuse, tridenticulate, base cuneate, shortly petiolate, 8-10 X 5-6 mm. Inflorescence a laxly-, few-flowered (3-4) raceme, about twice as long as the leaf; peduncle capillary, from a node on the secondary stem; flowers yellow, glabrous; floral bract 0.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; dorsal sepal broadly ovate, shortly acuminate, concave, 5 X 3.5 mm, carinate along the 3 veins; lateral sepals narrowly linear, acute, connate basally to form a mentum with the sides of the column-foot, 5.5 X 1.5 mm together, each 1(2)-veined, uncarinate; petals elliptical, obtuse, 1.5 X 0.75 mm; lip ovate, shortly unguiculate, indistinctly 3-lobed, the mid-lobe oblong, apex rounded, the lateral lobes semi-orbicular below the middle and curved up, disc with a pair of tall, thin, erect lamellae between the lateral lobes; column terete, 1.5 mm, the foot about 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *pumilus*, "dwarf," referring to the habit of the plant.

TYPE: ECUADOR: PASTAZA: epiphytic about 20 km east of Puyo, alt. 500 m, 29 July 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 483 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

This species is a minute plant which occurs on the mossy twigs high in the tops of the giant trees of the rain forest at low elevations of the Oriente of Ecuador. The clear yellow flowers seem large for the dwarf habit. The dorsal sepal is deeply concave, tricarinate and shortly acuminate. The lateral sepals are very narrow, together less than half the width of the dorsal sepal. *Pleurothallis pumila* is similar to the Central American *P. fuegi* Rchb.f., but it is distinguished from the latter by the nearly rounded leaves (instead of narrowly obovate), shorter racemes, noncaudate sepals, and the tall pair of thin lamellae on the lower part of the lip between the rounded lateral lobes.

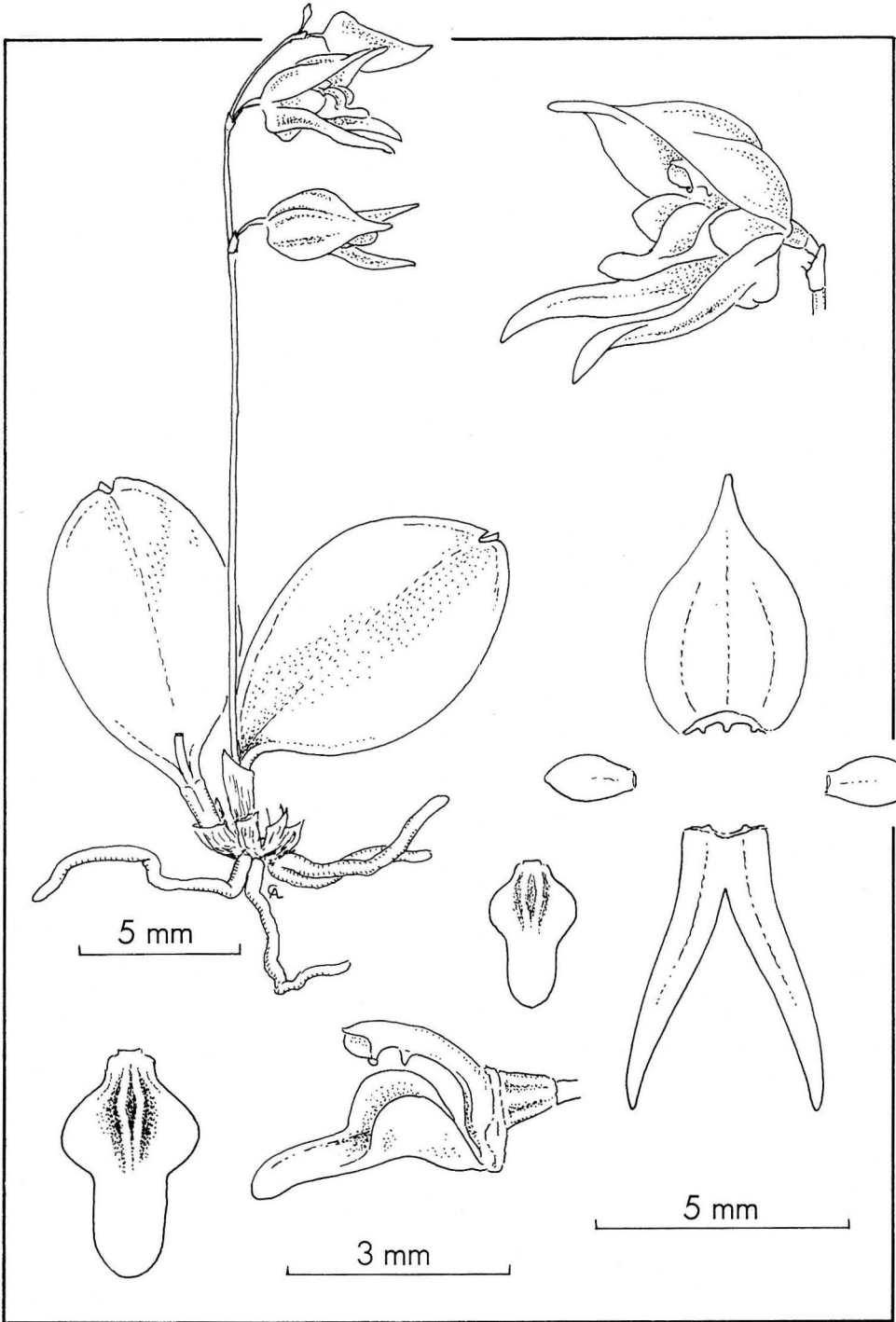


Figure 69. *PLEUROTHALLIS PUMILA* Luer