

***Pleurothallis dasychila* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta mediocris terrestris (epiphytica?) repens, rhizomate crasso, caulibus secundariis erectis crassis plurivaginatibus unifoliatis, folio rigido crasso anguste ovato acuto apiculato base conduplicato cuneato subpetiolato, flore carnoso breviter pedicellato successivo ex axilla folii, sepalis flavovirentibus extus scaberulis intus glabris, sepalo dorsali obovato, synsepalo ovato, petalis oblongis obtusis, labello trilobato, lobo antico rubro retuso dense spiculato, lobis lateralibus erectis obliquis obtusis.

Plant medium in size, terrestrial to epiphytic?, repent, the rhizome thick, producing a secondary stem about every 1-2 cm; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, stout, terete, 8-23 cm long, with 5-6 thin, evenly spaced, tight fitting, tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf suberect, rigid, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, often somewhat recurved toward the acute apex, apiculate, the cuneate base conduplicate, subpetiolate, 10-14 cm long, 3-3.5 cm wide. Inflorescence fasciculate, the fleshy, bilabiate, short-pedicellate flowers produced singly and successively from a fugacious spathe 5-7 mm long, in the axil of the leaf; floral bract thin, brown, 6-7 mm long; pedicel thick, 3 mm long; ovary scabrous, 3 mm long; sepals yellow-green, thick, scabrous to shortly pubescent externally, glabrous with visible cells internally, the dorsal sepal obovate-oblong, subacute, 10 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, obtuse synsepal mottled with red within, 8-9 mm long, 3.5 mm wide; petals oblong, slightly curved, abruptly obtuse, thickened centrally externally, translucent yellow edged in red and with a few red dots, 4.5 mm long, 2 mm wide; lip fleshy, 3-lobed, the mid-lobe oblong rounded, retuse, 2 mm long, densely covered with red spicules, the lateral lobes erect, rounded, oblique, obtuse, directed forward, sparsely pubescent, red-orange to brown, the base rounded and shortly hinged, the disc with a smooth, glabrous strip down the center, 4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide spread; column terete, curved, yellow, 4 mm long, with an obsolescent foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *dasys*, "thickly hairy or shaggy," and *cheilos*, "lip," in allusion to the appearance of the labellum of the species.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: LOJA: terrestrial on the road embankment about 25 km north of Loja, alt. ca. 2000 m, 5 March 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & K. Cordoba 1545 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); same area, 4 Oct. 1961, C. H. Dodson & L. B. Thien 1144 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

This robust species may be recognized by its tough rhizome with erect, stout stems provided with about six rather evenly spaced sheaths. The rigid leaf is folded at the base where a short-pedicellate flower is produced at prolonged intervals. The sepals are fleshy and scabrous, the obtuse petals are membranous but thick through the center, and the three-lobed lip is fleshy with a red, shaggy middle lobe which is shallowly cleft.

Pleurothallis dasychila appears to be related to the smaller *P. wagneriana* Kl. from Colombia and Venezuela.

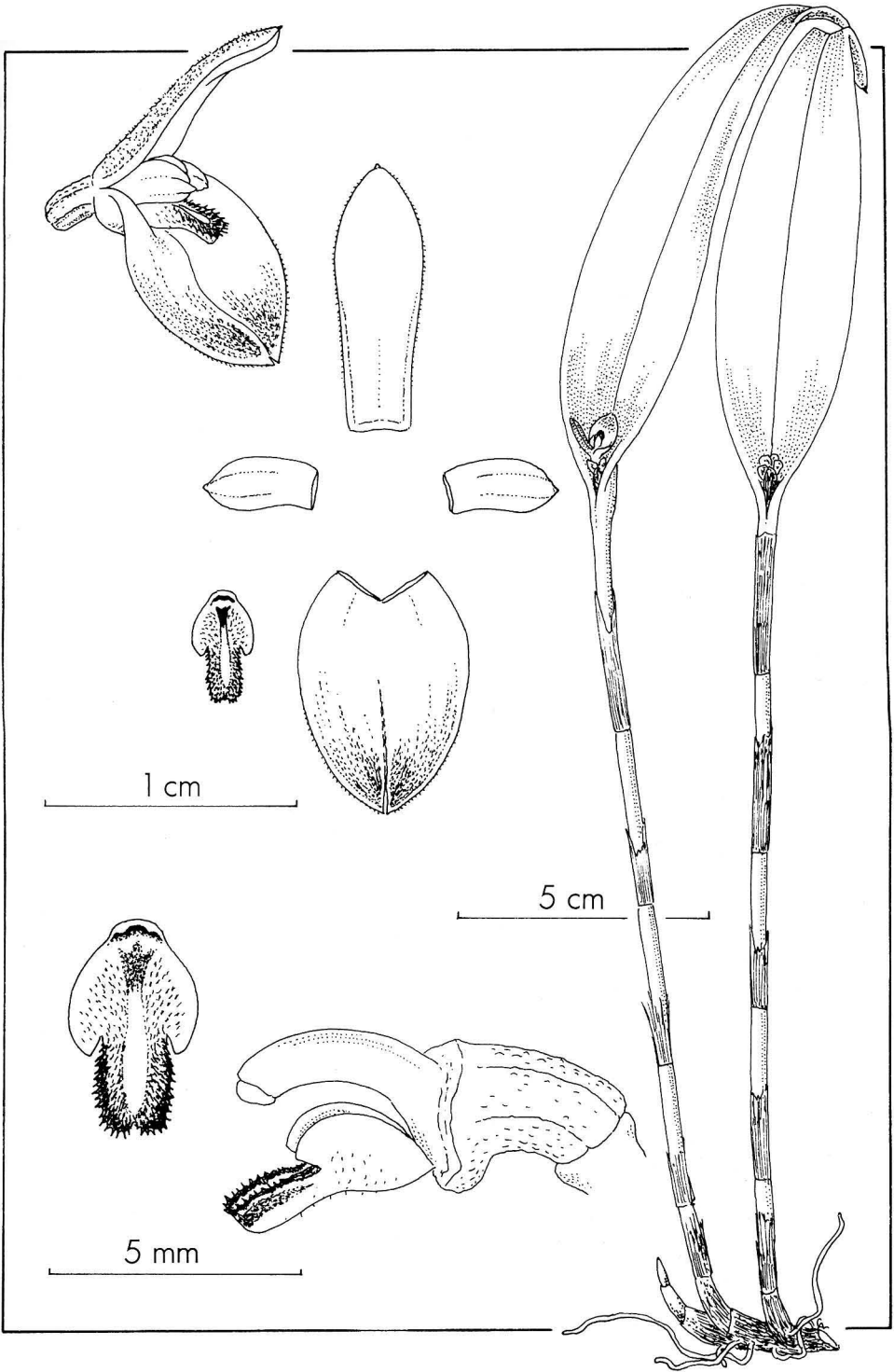


Figure 243. *PLEUROTHALLIS DASYCHILA* Luer