

*Pleurothallis pennellia* C. A. Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis brevibus gracilibus unifoliatis vaginis scaberulis, foliis coriaceis caulibus longioribus angustissime fusiformibus acuminatis base anguste cuneatis sessilibus, floribus fasciculatis singularibus flavis purpureo lentiginosis glabris extra, sepalis oblongis obtusis, sepalis lateralibus basi connatis pubescentibus, petalis ovatis obliquis marginibus serratis apice incrassatis, labello purpureo ovato trilobato apice rotundato minute eroso, lobis lateralibus late ovatis obliquis subacutis, basi bicauriculato, disco incrassato bicarinato.

Plant small epiphytic caespitose; roots filamentous flexuous. Secondary stems short, slender, terete, 1.5-5 cm long, with 3-4 close-fitting, tubular, scabrous sheaths, the lowest ones densely pubescent, unifoliate, frequently prolific. Leaf coriaceous, narrowly fusiform, acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, base very narrowly cuneate, sessile, 4-7 cm X 3-5 mm. Inflorescence fasciculate, a single flower produced intermittently from the base of the leaf; spathe pilose, 3 mm long; peduncle 3.5 mm long; floral bract and pedicel each 1.5-2 mm; ovary 1.5 mm long, studded with purple cells; sepals glabrous externally, oblong, obtuse, with revolute margins, yellow-green lightly specked with purple; dorsal sepal 4.5 X 2.25 mm, 3-veined; lateral sepals slightly oblique, each 4 X 2 mm, united basally to form a mentum with the column-foot, pubescent internally toward the base; petals translucent yellow, ovate, oblique, shortly obtuse at the apex, the margins minutely serrate, slightly contracted above the middle into a thickened apex, 4 X 1.5 mm, 1-veined; lip purple, edged in white, ovate, 3-lobed, apical lobe obovate, rounded, apiculate, margins minutely serrate, lateral lobes broadly ovate, oblique, subacute, prore, erect in the natural position, the base shortly unguiculate, with a pair of minute, membranous auricles, the disc thickened, yellowish along the center, not channeled, with a pair of low carinae above the middle; column thick, the apex dentate, 2 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *penna*, "quill, or pen," -*ellus*, the diminutive, and -*ius*, resembling, hence "resembling a small quill," in reference to the appearance of the plant.

TYPE: ECUADOR: PASTAZA: epiphytic in felled trees about 20 km east of Puyo, alt. ca. 600 m, 28 July 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & S. Wilhelm 687 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 44-75-243, flowered in cult. 11 June 1976.

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

This diminutive species is related to the twice larger *Pleurothallis ephelis* Luer and *P. merae* C. Luer, all of which are found more or less sympatrically in the Oriente in the Province of Pastaza. Vegetatively it is similar to *P. scandens* Ames, except for being much less prolific.

The little, long, narrow, tapered, thick leaf is borne by a secondary stem less than half the length of the leaf. It resembles a small quill. The stem is largely concealed by a few, snug, minutely scabrous bracts, but the lower ones are densely pilose. The little yellow-green flower, produced singly at intervals, spreads widely. The petals are minutely serrated, and thickened apically. The purple lip is three-lobed with a pair of minute basal auricles.

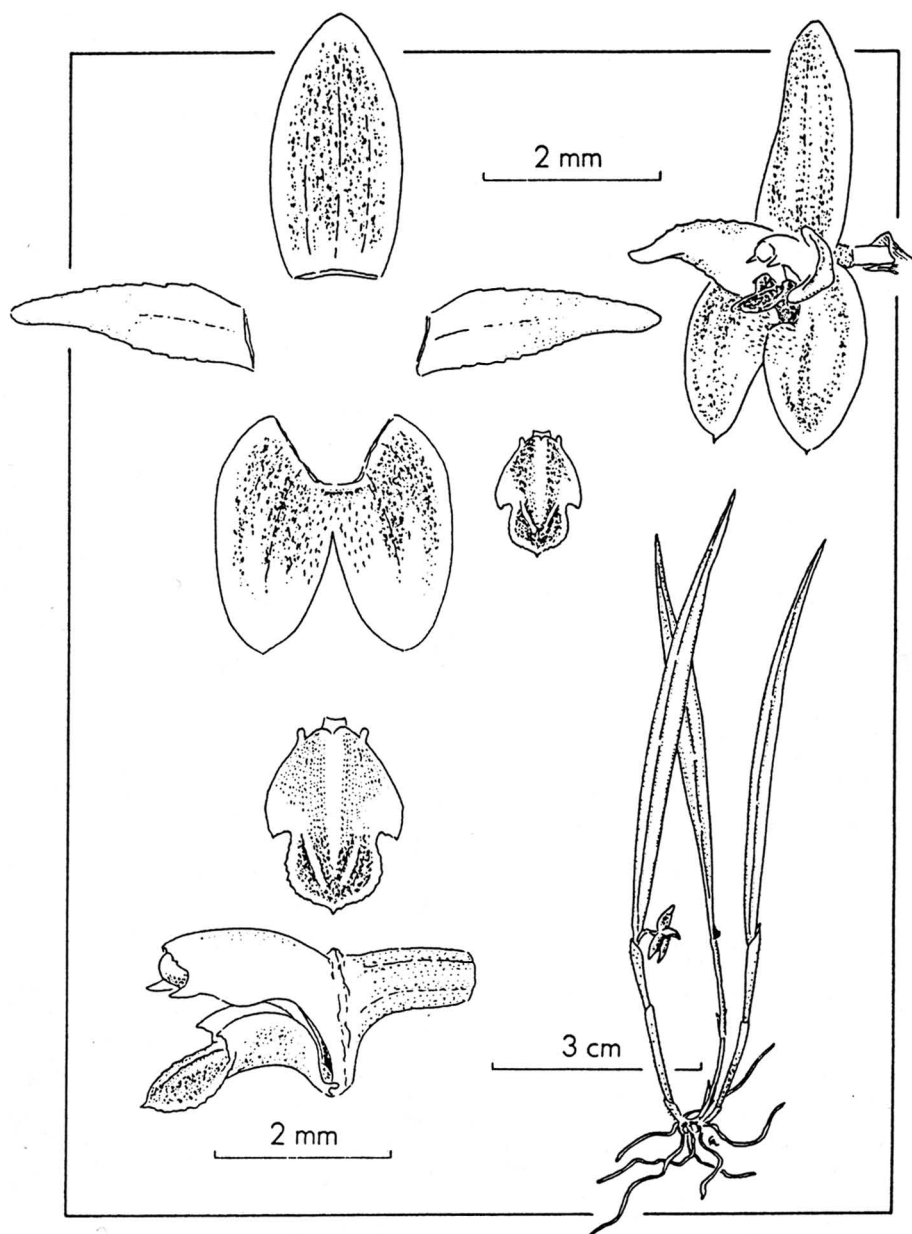


Figure 183. *PLEUROTHALLIS PENNELLIA* C. A. Luer