

***Pleurothallis aspergillum* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

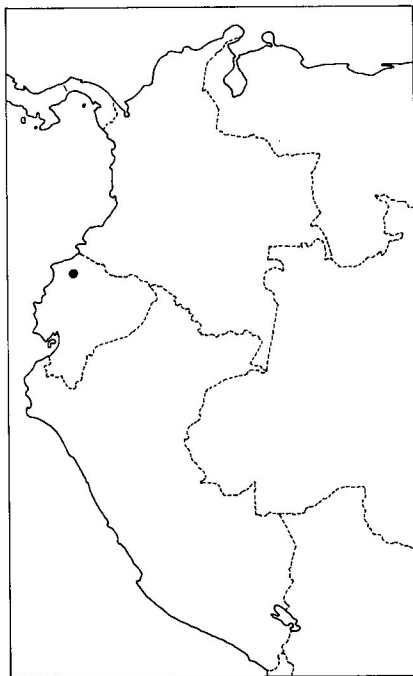
Ety: From the Latin *aspergillum*, "a brush used for sprinkling," in allusion to the brushlike tuft of peduncles at the apex of the leaf.

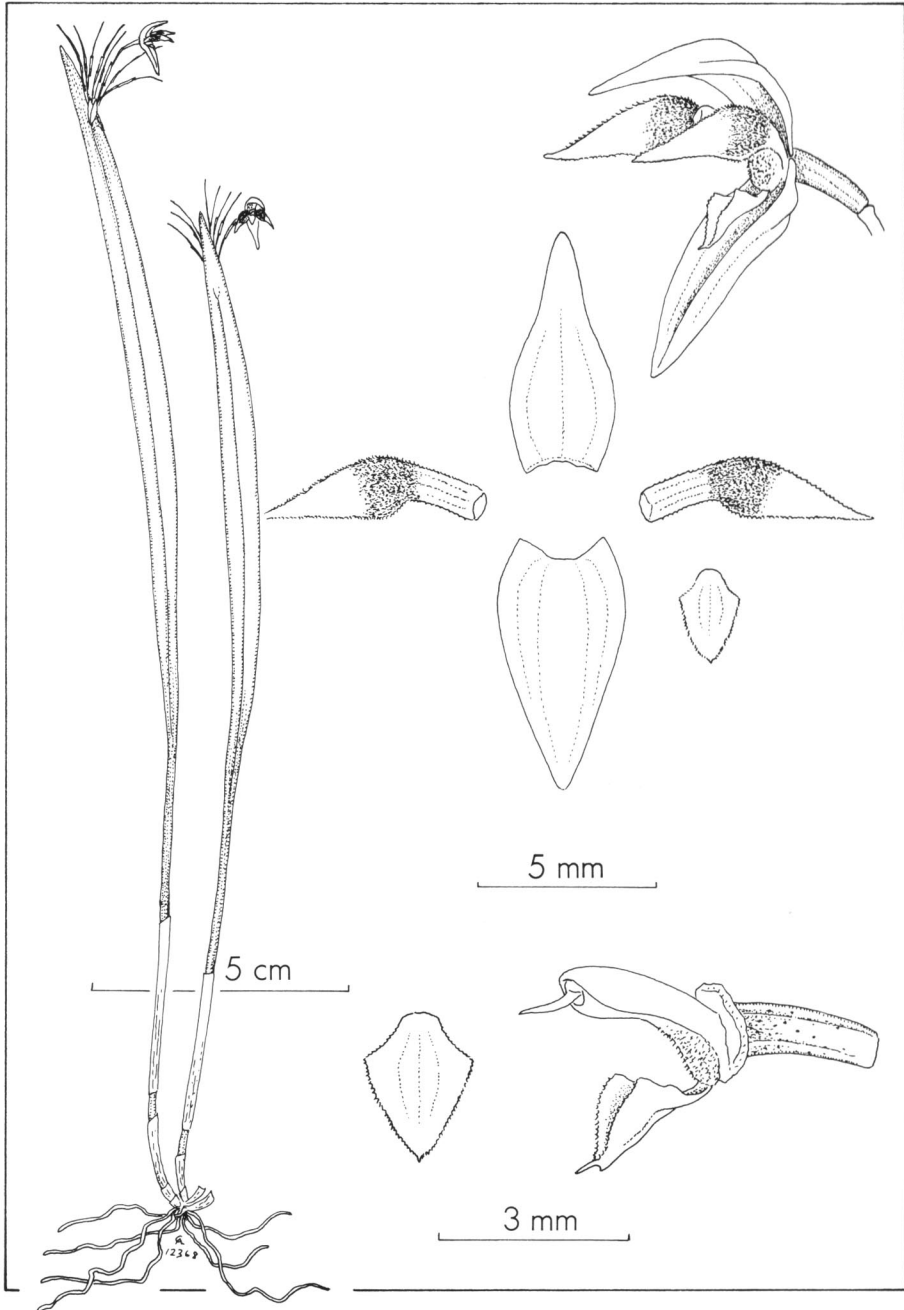
Inter species subgeneris *Scopulae* Luer species haec petalis falcatis ciliatis et labello rhombiformi eroso subacuto distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots densely fasciculate, slender. **Ramicauls** slender, erect, the free portion with a tubular sheath below the middle and 2 others at the base, 5-12 cm long to the base of the leaf. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-linear, acute, 8-15 cm long, 0.4-0.8 cm wide, the base narrowly cuneate, long-decurrent on the ramicaul. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of successive, single-flowered peduncles 9-12 mm long, 10-15 mm below the apex of the leaf, subtended by a spathe 5 mm long; floral bract 4 mm long; pedicel 8-12 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; **sepals** white, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, narrowly obtuse, 6.5 mm long, 3 mm wide unexpanded, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovate, concave, acute synsepal 7 mm long, 4 mm wide unexpanded; **petals** thick, white, suffused with dark purple in the middle third, narrowly ovate-falcate, acute, finely ciliate, 6.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; **lip** white, orange at the base, ovate-rhomboid, concave, 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the margins ciliate-erose, the apex acute, minutely apiculate, the subtruncate base hinged to an obsolescent column-foot; **column** white, semiterete, 2.5 mm long, the anther apical, exposed, the stigma apical, the base slightly bulbous, pubescent, essentially footless.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Esmeraldas: epiphytic in cloud forest west of Lita, alt. 750 m, 18 Jan. 1987, C. Luer, J. Luer, C. H. Dodson, A. Hirtz, D. Benzing & D. Bermudes 12368 (Holotype: MO; Isotypes: K, QCNE); same area west of Lita, 18 Feb. 1989, S. Dalström & T. Höijer 1255 (MO).

Pleurothallis aspergillum is locally abundant in the dense, wet forest of low altitudes in the northwestern Occidente of Ecuador, and is the second species of the subgenus to be found in Ecuador. It is distinguished from the other species of the subgenus by the white flowers with a dark purple band covering the middle third of the ciliate petals, and an ovate-rhomboid lip with minutely ciliate-erose margins.



Plate 1. *Pleurothallis aspergillum* Luer & Hirtz