

**Pleurothallis cernua** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus, foliis ellipticis acuminatis acutis basin versus cuneatis petiolatis, inflorescentia fasciculata pauciflora, floribus singularibus successivis cernuis inversis, sepalo mediano ovato acuminato, synsepalo late ovato concavo acuminato bidenticulato, petalis anguste linearibus acuminatis, labello latissime obovato obtuso lateribus incurvis.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stem purplish, erect, slender, terete, 10-20 cm long, with a tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, unifoliolate. Leaf elliptical, acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, base cuneate into a petiole, 7-13 × 1.5-2.5 cm, the petiole 1.5-2 cm long. Inflorescence fasciculate, few-flowered (1-3), flowers yellow-green, nodding, gaping, non-resupinate, single, successive, from an evanescent sheath at the apex of the stem; peduncle slender, 5-10 mm long; pedicel 5 mm long; floral bract tubular, 4 mm long; ovary 6 mm long; middle sepal ovate, acute, 8 × 3 mm, 3-veined; lateral sepals united into a broadly ovate, concave, acuminate, bidenticulate lamina, uppermost in the flower, 7.5 × 5 mm, 4-veined; petals narrowly linear, acuminate, slightly thickened, 7 × 1 mm, 1-veined; lip broadly obovate, obtuse, with the sides curved up, 3 × 3.5 mm spread out, disc with a transverse carina near the base just above a deflexed circular area at the junction with the base of the column, and with a central purple stripe; column terete, 3 mm long, with an obsolescent foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *cernuus*, "nodding," or "drooping," referring to the nodding habit of the flowers.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: TUNGURAHUA: epiphytic in Valle de Chaupe above Baños, alt. 2200 m, 24 July 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 426 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

This heretofore unrecorded species of *Pleurothallis* was among several which were found in flower in a valley on the flank of Volcán Tunguragua. Its companions included *P. floribuda* Poepp. & Endl., *P. pluriracemosa* Garay, *P. scabrata* Lindl., *P. secunda* Poepp. & Endl., and *P. tunguraguae* Lehm. & Krzl.

*Pleurothallis cernua* may be recognized by its slender stems, elliptical petiolate leaves, and one to three moderate-sized, yellow-green, drooping, non-resupinate flowers produced singly in a fascicle from the base of the leaf. The concave synsepal stands uppermost behind the lip, while the narrow, pointed petals spread to either side. A purple stripe is visible between the elevated sides of the lip. When the sides are spread, the lip appears very broadly obovate.

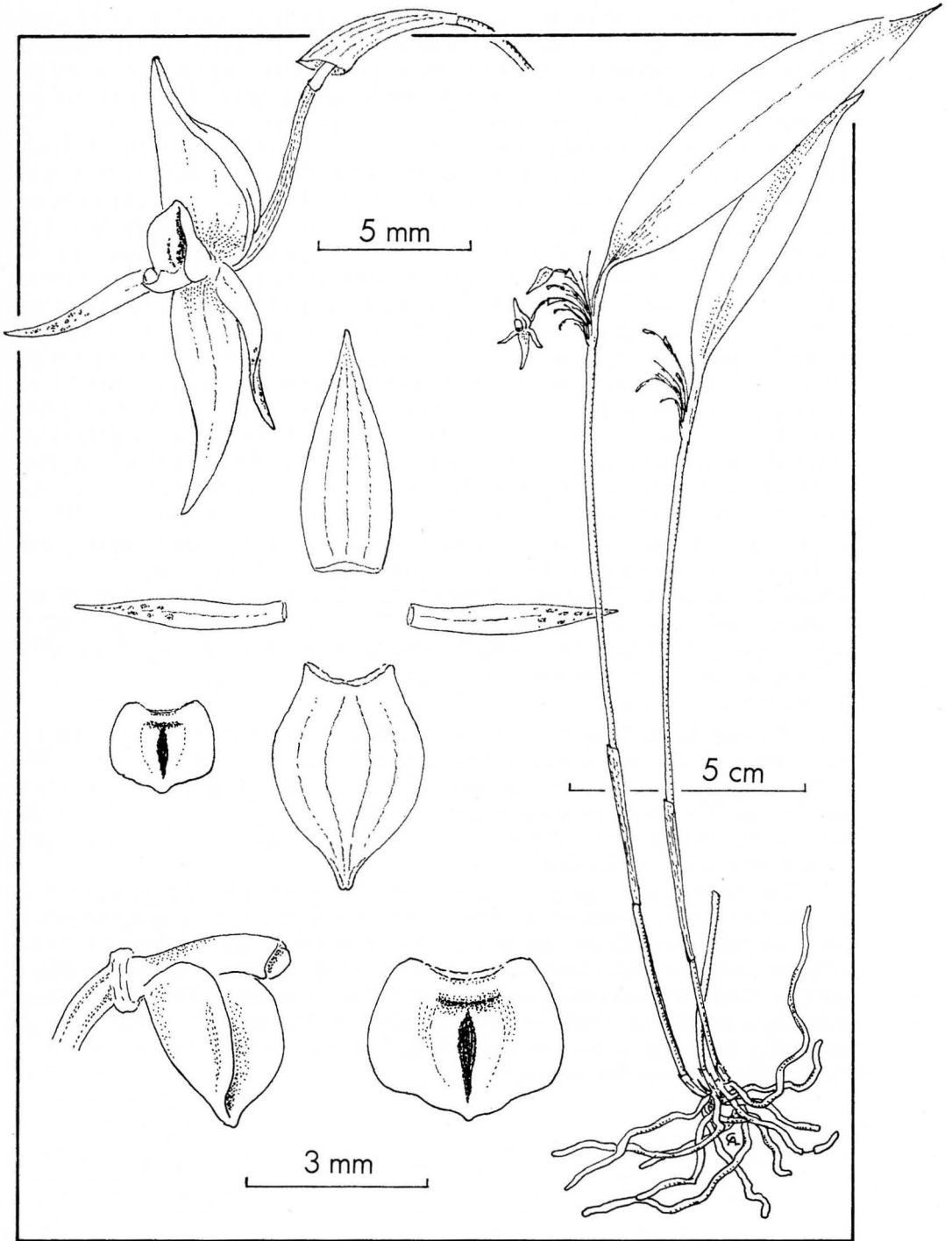


Figure 52. *PLEUROTHALLIS CERNUA* Luer