

**Pleurothallis nortonii** Luer, sp. nov.

**Ety.:** Named for Darrin Norton of Ludlow, VT, who has cultivated this species for many years

**Planta parva, folio elliptico petiolato ramicauli longiore, racemo laxo paucifloro folio longiore, sepalis acutis liberis, petalis anguste acutis et labello oblongo canaliculato base bilobulato distinguitur.**

**Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1.5-x cm long, enclosed by tubular sheath and 1-2 other sheaths at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, 4.5 cm long including a petiole ca. 1 cm long, 1.1 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a successively and distantly 2- to 3-flowered raceme 4-5 cm long including the peduncle 2-2.5 cm long, from a node below the abscission layer; floral bract tubular, microscopically scabrous, 2.5 mm long;**

pedicel 8-9 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals translucent orange, glabrous, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 5 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate only at the base, narrowly ovate, oblique, acute, 5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined; petals blackish red, narrowly-ovate, acute, attenuate, 4 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 1-veined; lip blackish red, elliptical-oblong, 3.25 mm long, 1 mm wide, with the margins microscopically cellular and a minute marginal lobule between the middle and basal thirds, the apex rounded, thickened, convex, the disc shallowly sulcate between a pair of longitudinal calli from a rounded, callous thickening at the base, the base subtruncate, minutely bilobulate, hinged to the column-foot; column semiterete, 3.5 mm long, denticulate at the apex, with the anther, rostellum and stigma hooded and ventral, the foot 1 mm long.

VENEZUELA: Without collection data, obtained from Dunsterville by J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, cultivated in Ludow, VT, by Darrin Morton, 6 Sept. 1999, *C. Luer 19229* (Holotype: MO).

This species, obtained by J & L Orchids from Dunsterville, has been cultivated for many years by Darrin Morton at Mountain Orchids. A member of subgenus *Specklinia* section *Muscosae*, it is distinguished by a well-developed ramicaul, and a sparsely flowered raceme that slightly surpasses the leaf. The few, successive flowers are widely separated and borne on long pedicels. The sepals and petals are acute. The lip is oblong with a thickened, rounded apex, a pair of minute, marginal lobes, and a pair of basal lobules.

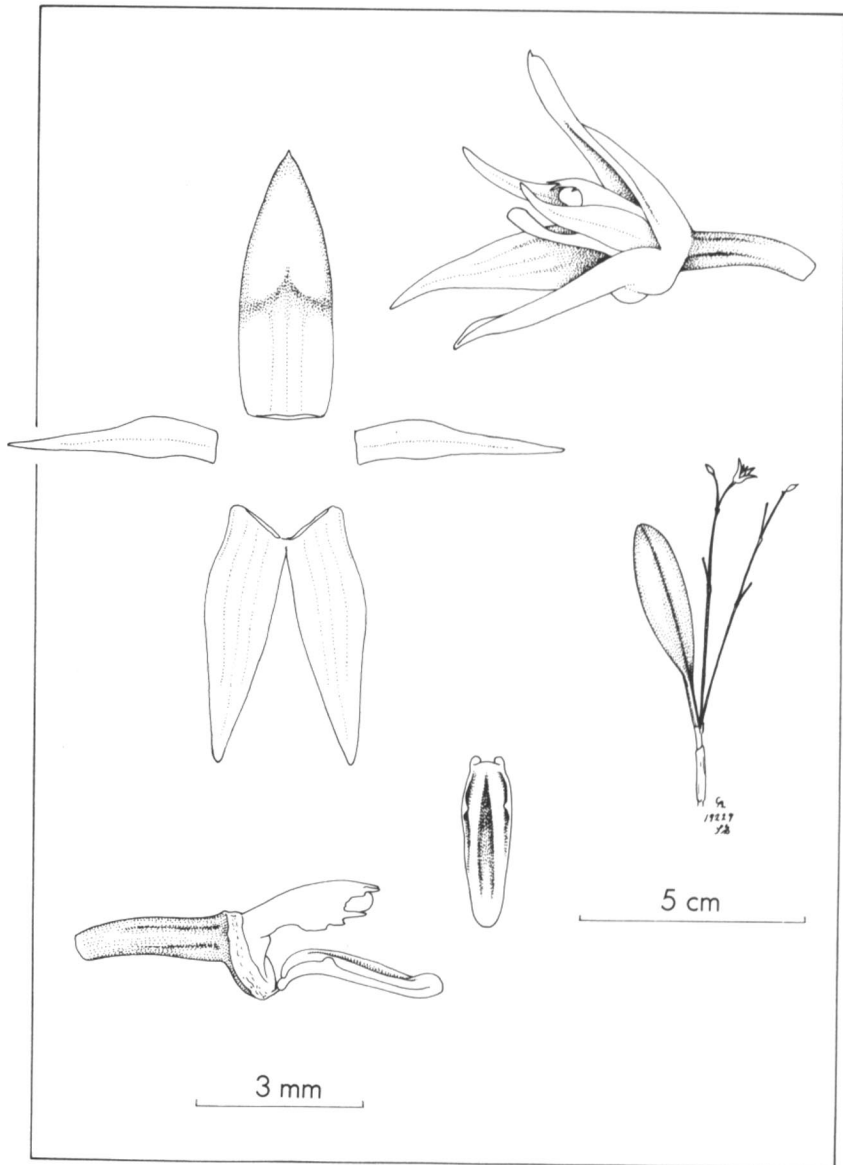


Fig. 29a. *Pleurothallis nortonii*