

Pleurothallis orthostachys Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. secundae* Poepp. & Endl. affinis, sed racemis erectis strictis et labello integro excavato differt.

Plant large, terrestrial, caespitose; roots slender, numerous. Secondary stems stout, 45-60 cm long, with a close, tubular sheath below the middle and 2 others at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, 15-20 cm long, 5-8.5 cm wide, the base rounded to cordate, sessile. Inflorescence racemose, 1-5 erect, subdensely flowered racemes up to 20 cm long, from a slender sheath

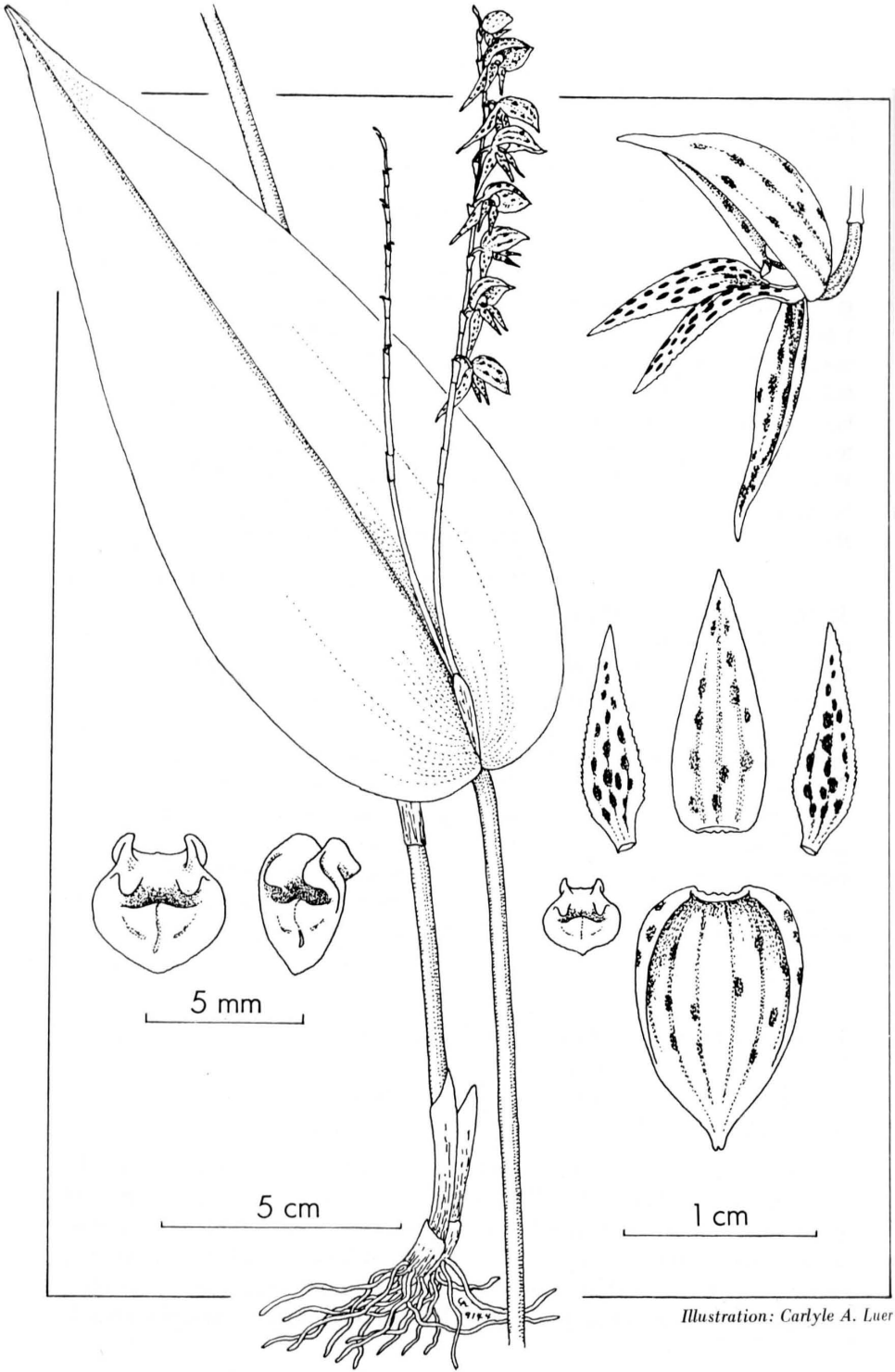


Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

Pleurothallis orthostachys

2-2.5 cm long at the base of the leaf; flowers non-resupinate; floral bract infundibular, 6 mm long; pedicel 3-4 mm long; ovary 4-5 mm long; sepals translucent yellow, spotted and suffused with red-brown along the veins, glabrous, the middle sepal narrowly ovate, acute, 15 mm long, 5 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into a deeply concave, ovoid, acute synsepal 14 mm long, 9 mm wide unexpanded; petals yellow, spotted with red-brown, narrowly ovate, oblique, acute, 13 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the margins serrulate, thickened toward the apex; lip yellow-green, broadly ovate to suborbicular, obtuse, 4.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the margins entire, with short basal lobes embracing the column, with a pair of mammillate processes above the base and just below a transverse concavity in the center of the lip; column cylindrical, 2 mm long, footless.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *orthos*, "straight," and *stachys*, "a spike," referring to the erect inflorescence compared to the drooping racemes of *P. secunda* and its allies.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del griego *orthos*, "recto", y *stachys*, "una espiga", en referencia a la inflorescencia erecta comparada a los racimos inclinados del *P. secunda* y sus relacionados.

TYPE: COLOMBIA: ANTIOQUIA: Munic. of Yarumal: above Quebrada El Oro, alt. 1.850 m, 20 May 1983, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 2622 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer Illustr. 9144.

DISTRIBUTION: Colombia, Central Cordillera.

This large species is related to *P. secunda*, but the former is readily distinguished by the straight, erect racemes and the entire lip with a transverse central concavity above the base.

Esta especie grande está relacionada con el *P. secundae* Poepp & Endl., pero el anterior es fácilmente reconocible por los racimos rectos, erectos y el labelo entero con una cavidad transversa central sobre la base.