

Pleurothallis peroniocephala Luer, sp. nov.

Planta perparva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis, vaginis amplexicaulibus, folio coriaceo ovato acuto concavo cordato, floribus roseo-brunneis parvulis subglobosis fasciculatis, sepalo dorsali et synsepalo suborbiculatis concavis, petalis rubris linearibus falcatis, labello oblongo obtuso, callo hemisphaerico.

Plant very small, epiphytic to terrestrial, caespitose; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stem slender terete, 2-3.5 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 sheaths at the base, unifoliate. Leaf spreading, deep green, rigid and coriaceous, ovate, slightly concave, acute, tridentate, base of mature leaves deeply cordate, sessile. Inflorescence fasciculate, single-flowered, few (1-3), from a spathe 4-6 mm long at the base of the leaf; flowers very small, subglobose, rose-brown; floral bract tubular 3 mm long; pedicel and ovary each 2 mm long; dorsal sepal orbicular, deeply concave, obtuse to rounded, 2-2.5 × 2.5 mm spread out, 3-veined; lateral sepals connate into a synsepal similar to the dorsal sepal; petals red, linear-falcate, obtuse, 2.5 × 0.3 mm; lip rose, oblong, obtuse to subtruncate, base shortly cordate, disc with a well delineated hemispheric elevation in the center, 1.25 × 0.75 mm; column erect, 1 mm long, with a prominent collar-like stigma.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *peronion*, "little pin" (dim. of *perone*), and *-cephalus*, "-headed," referring to the pin-head sized flowers.

TYPE: ECUADOR: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: terrestrial on road-cut between Loja and Zamora near km 41, alt. 1000 m. 5 Aug. 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 401 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); near km 33, alt. 1600 m, 8 Aug. 1958, Dodson 235 (SEL); probably same area, flowered in cult. at the Mo. Bot. Gard., 1 April 1961, Dodson 391 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

This very small member of the section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae* is apparently endemic in southeastern Ecuador, but it might prove to be more widely spread after more diligent searching. The little heart-shaped leaves are very similar to those of other species in the section, but they are distinctive, nevertheless. The very small, dark purplish green leaves are stiff and thickened, slightly concave with sharp margins, and deeply cordate. The sepals of the pinhead-sized, brownish flowers are orbicular and concave, the red petals are long and curved, but the oblong lip is most distinguished with a rounded callus which is well demarcated in the center of the disc. The column with its collar-like stigma is as large as the lip and it stands erect above it.

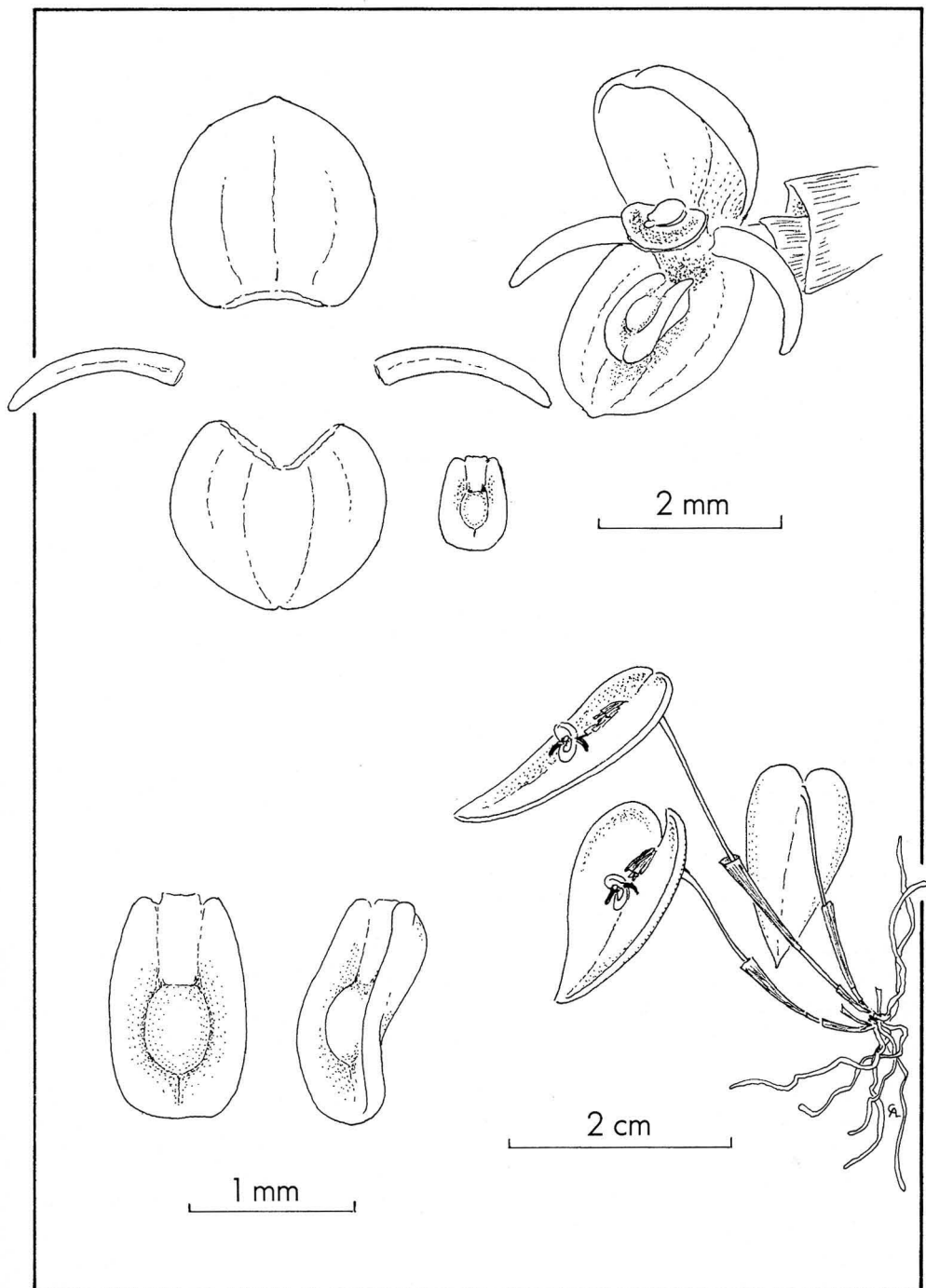


Figure 66. *PLEUROTHALLIS PERONIOCEPHALA* Luer