

**Pleurothallis rubella** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta perparva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus abbreviatis unifoliatis, foliis angustissime ellipticis sensim longipedicellatis, racemo gracillimo flexuoso folio aequilongo, floribus pusillis rubellis solitariis successivis, sepalis ovatis acutis, petalis ovatis apice anguste linearibus obtusis, labello anguste ligulato ciliato supra basin concavo pubescenti.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, abbreviated, 5-15 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, ribbed, tubular sheaths, unifoliolate. Leaf coriaceous, very narrowly elliptical, subacute, tridenticulate, the base narrowly cuneate, gradually long-pedicellate, 2-4 cm long including the petiole, 4-6 mm broad. Inflorescence a slender, fractiflex raceme, to 5 cm long, the peduncle capillary, from a node on the secondary stem, the small, red flowers produced singly, slowly, successively; floral bract 0.5 mm long; pedicel 2-3.5 mm long; ovary green with red stripes, 1 mm long; dorsal sepal ovate, acute, concave, rose-red with darker red veins,  $3 \times 1.5$  mm, the 3 veins prominent externally; lateral sepals elliptical, acute, connate to above the middle, each unicarinate,  $3.25 \times 2$  mm together; petals ovate, contracted near the middle into a narrowly linear, obtuse, maroon apex, the apical cells prominent,  $2.5 \times 1$  mm; lip maroon, narrowly oblong-ligulate, the apex obtuse, the margins ciliate, the base with a rounded, red-pubescent concavity just above the concave end which is adherent to the column-foot, the disc superficially channeled, the cells prominent,  $2.75 \times 0.75$  mm; column stout 0.5 mm long, with a very short, broad foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *rubellus*, "reddish" (dim. of *ruber*), in reference to the little red flowers.

TYPE: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic, Fortuna dam site, alt. ca. 1000 m, Oct. 1976, *R. L. Dressler s.n.* (HOLOTYPE: SEL), cultivated at SEL, greenhouse acc. no. 131-76-4, flowered in cult. 8 Nov. 1976.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This small species is characterized by its clump of short-stemmed, long, narrow leaves. The inflorescence with its hair-like peduncle and fractiflex rachis barely tops the leaves. The little, red flowers are produced singly in a slow succession. The narrowed apices of the petals are studded with prominent, maroon cells, as is also the surface of the ciliated lip. The base of the lip is broadly and tightly adherent to the column-foot, and immediately in front there is a rounded concavity lined by short, red hairs.

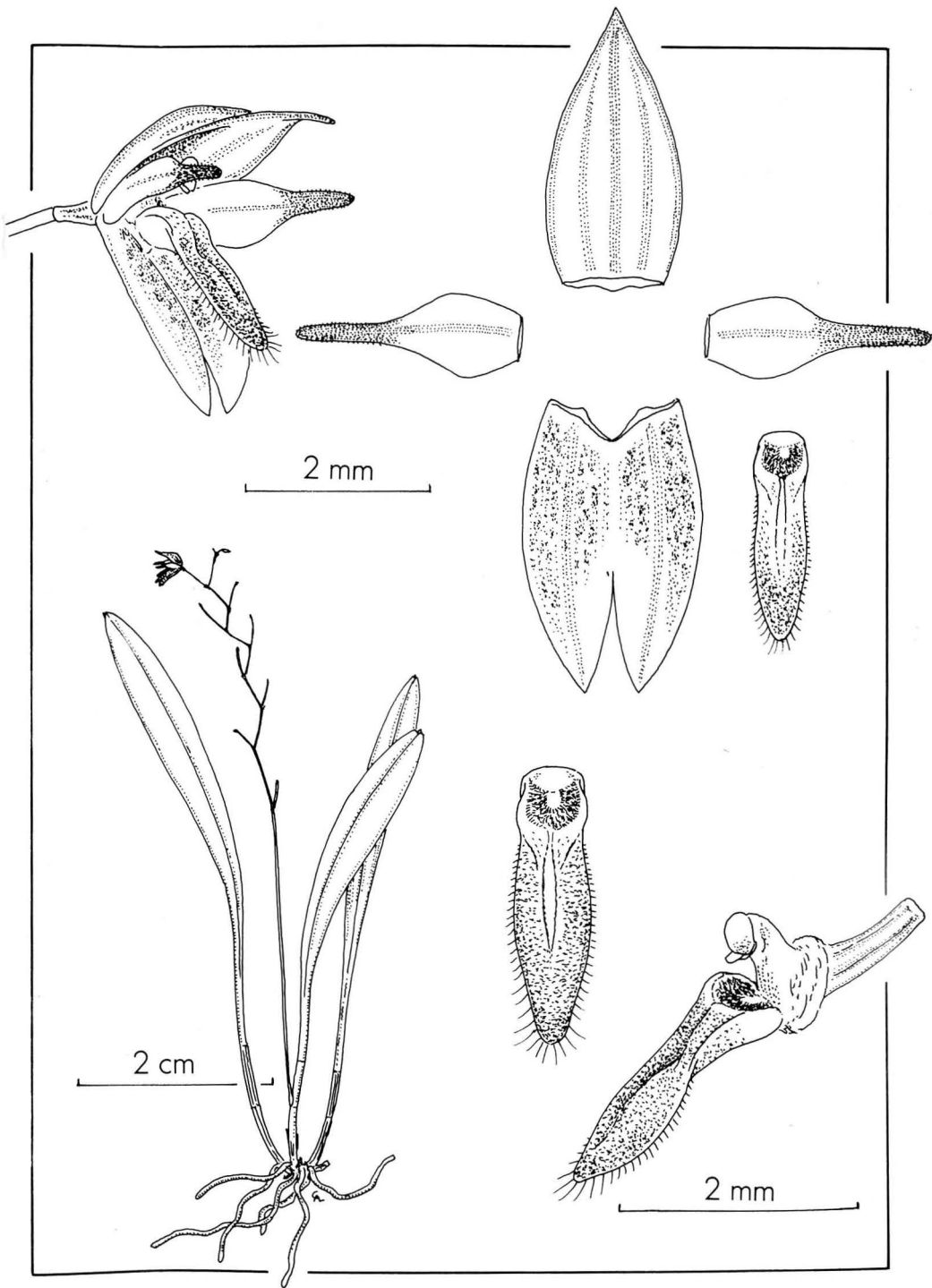


Figure 289. PLEUROTHALLIS RUBELLA Luer