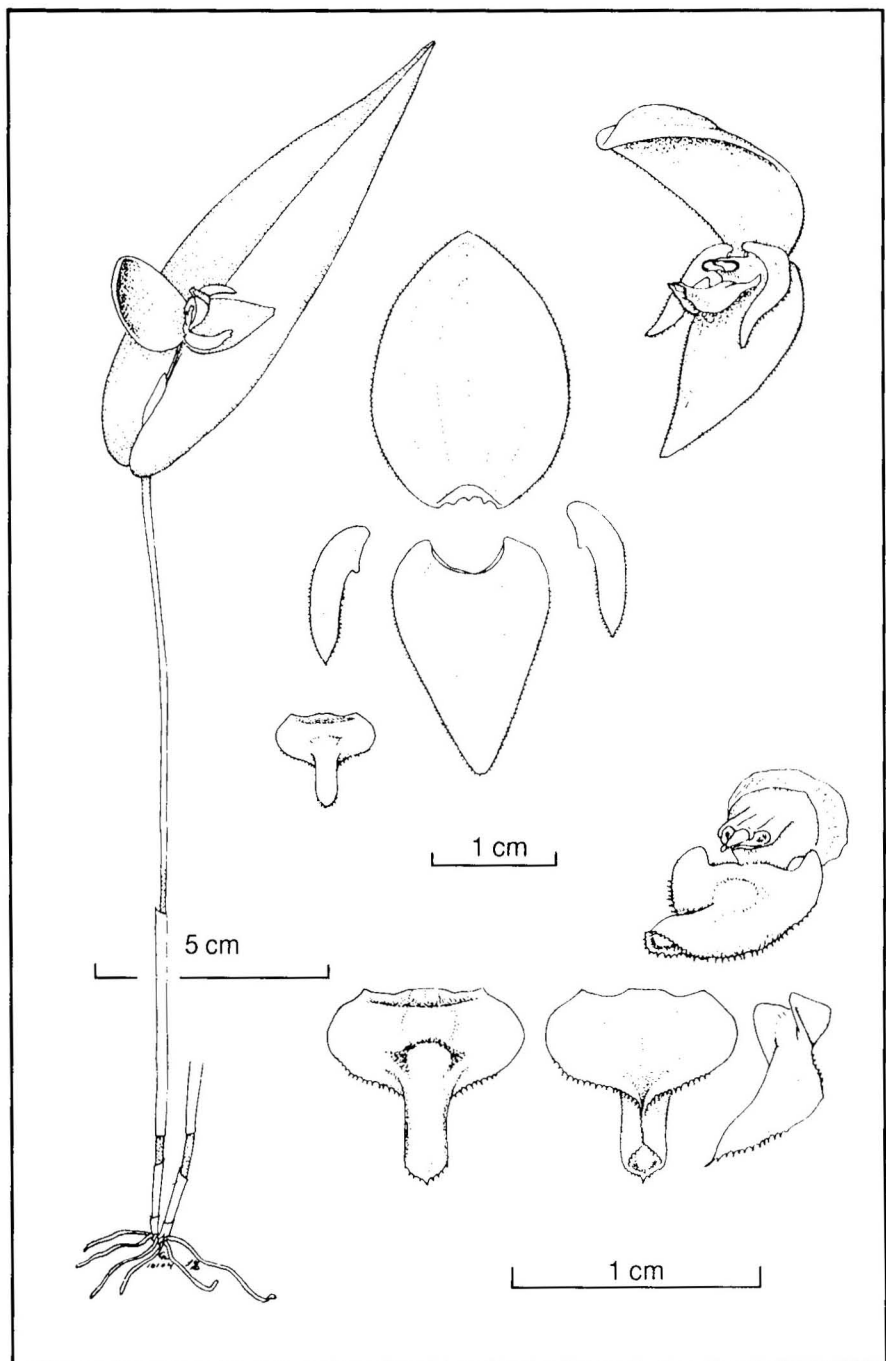


22. **PLEUROTHALLIS SIPHOGLOSSA** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. grandiflorae* Lindl. affinis, sed labelli lateribus revolutis tubum formantibus differt.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Santander: epiphytic in cloud forest west of Velez toward Landazuri, alt. 2400 m, 4 May 1984, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 10104* (Holotype: MO); Virolín, El Taladro, alt. 2200 m, collected by E. Valencia, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 2 Jan. 1993, *R. Escobar 5158* (MO). Dept. of Norte de Santander: Alto de Santa Inés, alt. 2100 m, 13 May 1984, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 10311* (MO). Dept. of Antioquia: south of Yarumal, alt. 2500 m, 14 Mar. 1989, *C. Luer, J. Luer, S. Dalström & W. Teague 14146* (MO); Jardín, La Cifuentes, alt. 2350 m, collected by M. Zapata, 29 Dec. 1992, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 29 Dec. 1992, *R. Escobar 5132* (MO). Venezuela: without collection data, May 1967, *G. C. K. Dunsterville 76*. Ecuador: Prov. of Morona-Santiago: east of the pass east of Sigsig, alt. 2700 m, 15 May 1988, *C. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 13349* (MO); above Chiguinda, alt. 2600 m, 11 Aug. 1990, *A. Hirtz 5054* (MO).



PLEUROTHALLIS SIPHOGLOSSA Luer & R. Escobar

ETIMOLOGIA: Del griego *siphoglossa*, "una lengua en forma de tubo", en alusión al labelo tubular.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *siphoglossa*, "a tube-like tongue," referring to the tubular lip.

Plant medium to large in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender to relatively stout, erect, 10-40 cm long, with a close, tubular sheath on the lower third and 1-2 other sheaths at the base. **Leaf** suberect to spreading, coriaceous, ovate to narrowly ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, 10-13 cm long, 3-7 cm wide, the base sessile, cordate to deeply cordate. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of successive, single flowers, subtended by a spathe 10-15 mm long; peduncles 2-4 mm long, concealed within the sheath; floral bracts thin, tubular, 6-9 mm long; pedicels 8-12 mm long; ovary stout, 5-6 mm long; **sepals** microscopically ciliate-pubescent, yellow, red, purple to brown, the dorsal sometimes suffused with purple or brown along the veins, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, concave, 15-26 mm long, 10-16 mm wide, 5- to 7-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acute lamina, 13-20 mm long, 8-13 mm wide, 4- to 6-veined; **petals** decurved, oblong-falcate, acute, denticulate-fimbriate, more or less minutely cellular-glandular, 7-12 mm long, 1.5-2.5 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** erect, subovate, 6-8 mm long, 4-8 mm wide above the base, the margins denticulate, the sides revolute above the middle, meeting below to form a tube, the apex acute, more or less curved up, the disc with a broad glenion above the thickened base, the base broadly and deeply concave on the end to accommodate the bulbous column-foot; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, the foot thick, bulbous, minutely pubescent, the anther, rostellum and stigma apical.

Esta especie aparece ilustrada en la Guía de Campo de Orquídeas de Venezuela, identificada como *P. grandiflora* Lindl. La especie ilustrada en el volumen 4 de Orquídeas Venezolanas Ilustradas, una especie diferente, también aparece como *P. grandiflora*.

Pleurothallis siphoglossa ocurre en las Cordilleras Central y Oriental de Colombia, no hay duda de que en la adyacente Venezuela, y en el Ecuador. Aunque no crece entremezclada con la cercanamente afín *P. grandiflora*, la extensión geográfica de las dos especies coincide. Vegetativamente las especies no pueden distinguirse. Sin embargo, el muy característico labelo de *P. siphoglossa* permite un fácil reconocimiento. En vez de ovado y más o menos convexo, el labelo presenta los lados agudamente revolutos arriba de la mitad, con las márgenes enfrentadas por debajo formando un tubo. El tubo con frecuencia se curva hacia arriba en el ápice, como es el caso en *P. deflexa* y *P. millei*.

This species is illustrated in the Field Guide of *Orchids of Venezuela* and identified as *P. grandiflora* Lindl. The species illustrated in volume 4 of *Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated*, a different species, is also identified as *P. grandiflora*.

Pleurothallis siphoglossa occurs in the Central Cordillera and the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia, no doubt in adjacent Venezuela, and Ecuador. Although it does not grow intermixed with the closely allied *P. grandiflora*, the geographic ranges of the two species overlap. Vegetatively the two species are indistinguishable. However, the very distinctive lip of *P. siphoglossa* permits easy recognition. Instead of ovate and more or less convex, the lip has acutely revolute sides above the middle, with the margins in apposition below to form a tube. The tube often curves up at the apex as seen in *P. deflexa* and *P. millei*.