

***Pleurothallis spathuliformis* Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *spathuliformis*, "spathulate," referring to the petals and lip.

Species haec *P. acuminatae* (H.B.K.) Lindl., affinis sed habitu minore et petalis spathuliformibus apice rotundatis differt.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls blackish, slender, erect, 2.5-6 cm long, with 2-3 tubular sheaths below the middle and at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 3-6.5 cm long, 1-1.2 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole ca. 5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a subcongested, secund, simultaneously several-flowered raceme, 5-11 cm long including the peduncle 1.5-2.5 cm long, subtended by a narrow spathe 8 mm long from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 2-4 mm long; pedicels 4 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** dull white, shortly pubescent within, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, narrowly obtuse to acute, 12-14 mm long, 2.5-3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals free, oblique, forming a small mentum below the column-foot, 14-15 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** translucent white, spathulate, rounded at the apex, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, narrowly veined to either side of the midvein; **lip** red, arcuate, oblong-obovate, 5.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apex expanded, broadly rounded, smooth, the disc with a pair of erect, longitudinal calli below the middle, with a low, midline callus between, the base truncate, hinged to the tip of the column-foot; **column** red, stout, 4 mm long, the foot 3 mm long, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral.

BOLIVIA: Cochabamba: below Copacata, alt. 2630 m, 5 Feb. 1997, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez, D. Ric & W. Teague 18395* (Holotype: MO); Chapare, northeast of Cochabamba toward Villa Tunari, alt. 2900 m, 22 Jan. 1980, *C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 4907* (SEL); same area, alt. 2600 m, 6 Jan. 1994, *S. Dalström & J. Sönnemark 2014* (MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 19069.

This species, endemic in central Bolivia, is related to *P. acuminata*. It differs from the latter by a smaller habit with shorter racemes. The very similar flowers are distinguished by spathulate petals that are rounded at the apex, and the spathulate lip with a low, midline callus between the lateral pair. The apex is free of any verrucosities.

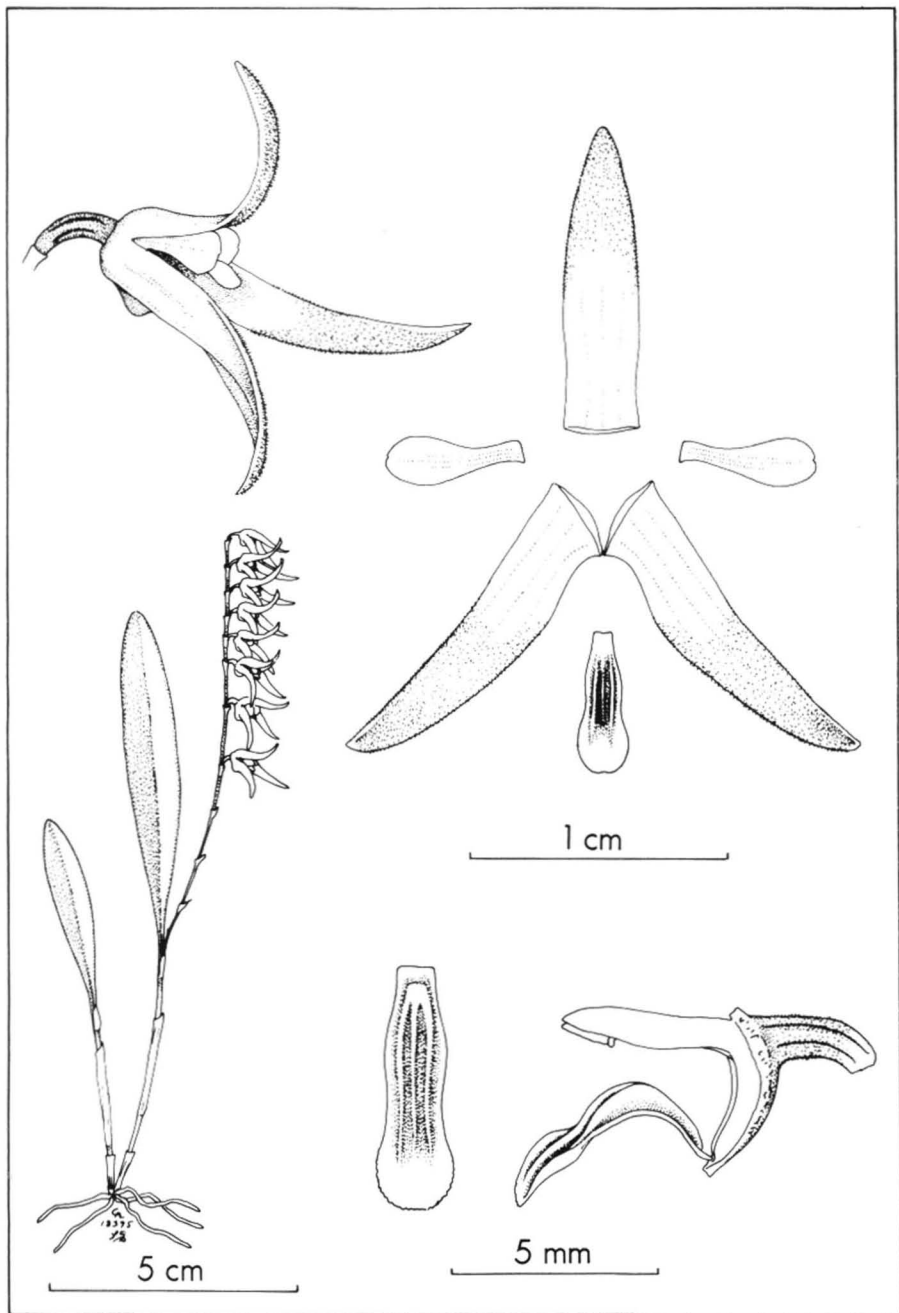


Fig. 29. *Pleurothallis spathuliformis*