

***Pleurothallis tetrachaeta* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Greek *tetrachaete*, "with four hairs," referring to the elongated, hairlike apices of the sepals and petals.

Species haec *P. quadricaudata* Schltr. similis, sed pedunculis longioribus, labello duplo minore et lobis basalibus subnullis differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, suberect, round in cross section, 4-8 cm long, with close, tubular sheaths above the base. **Leaf** thinly coriaceous, subspreading, sessile, ovate, acute, 3-4 cm long, 1.2-1.5 cm wide, long-mucronate, the base broadly cuneate to rounded. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of single-flowered peduncles, borne from a prostrate spathe 2-3 mm long, at the base of the leaf; peduncles 25-35 mm long; floral bract 3 mm long; pedicel 4-5 mm long; ovary 3-4 mm long; **sepals** and petals pale rose, the dorsal sepal very narrowly ovate, acute, long-attenuate, 25-40 mm long, 2.5-3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate completely into a similar synsepal, 25-40 mm long, 3.5-4 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** very narrowly ovate, acute, subsigmoid, long-attenuate, 20-35 mm long, 1.5-1.75 mm wide, 3-veined, minutely ciliate; **lip** rose, triangular-sagittate, 2.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, glabrous, the apex acute, decurbed below the middle with low, rounded, marginal angles, the disc featureless, the deflexed base 0.75 mm long, hinged to the base of the column; column semiterete, 1 mm long, the anther and single-lobed stigma apical, the foot rudimentary.

ECUADOR: **Esmeraldas**: epiphytic in wet forest west of Lita, alt. 750 m, 18 Jan. 1987, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, C.H. Dodson, D. Benzing & D. Bermudes 12388 (Holotype: MO).

This species is closely allied to *P. quadricaudata* and *P. tipuloides*. All three occur in different localities. They are superficially similar except that the longer peduncles of *P. tetrachaeta* bear the flower beyond the tip instead of midway. The sepals and petals with long-attenuated apices are inseparable from those of the other two. The lip, however, is only half the size without basal lobes. The morphology of the lips of these three taxa may be found to merge if a large number of specimens were available for study. At the present, they will be recognized because the distinctly different lips probably indicate different pollinators.

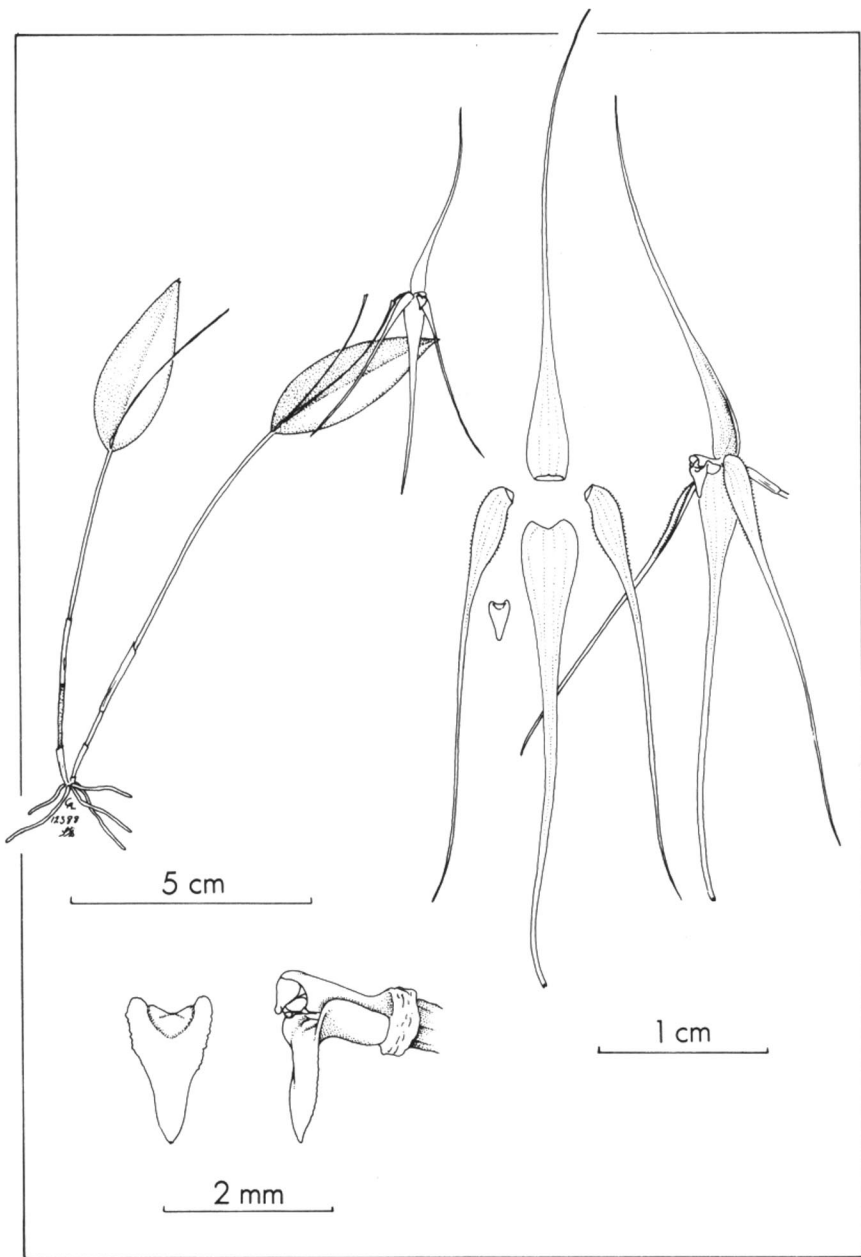


Fig. 48. *Pleurothallis tetrachaeta*