

Pleurothallis tryssa Luer, sp. nov., figure 11. Selbyana 1:79.

Herba epiphytica vel terrestris parva ad mediocris subtilis, caulibus secundariis gracillimis versus apicem anguste compressis unifoliatis, foliis oblongo-ovatis acuminatis supra basin rotundatis sessilibus, racemo delicato multifloro folio longiore, floribus pusillis translucenter viriscentibus purpureo-guttatis, sepalo medio et synsepalo anguste ovatis acuminatis cymbiformibus, petalis anguste linearibus, labello trilobo unguiculato ad medium deflexo, lobo antico oblongo acuminato, lobis lateralibus triangularibus incurvis.

Plant epiphytic or terrestrial, small to medium in size, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stem very slender, terete to narrowly ancipital above, 4-13 cm, with 2-3 close-fitting tubular sheaths, unifoliolate. Leaf oblong 3-6 × 1-2 cm, apex attenuate to acuminate, apiculate, base broadly cuneate to rounded, sessile. Inflorescence a many-flowered raceme as long as or slightly longer than the leaf; peduncle slender, from a narrow sheath 5-12 mm long in the axil of the leaf. Flowers small, non-resupinate, green with or without red spots; floral bract 1.5-2 mm; pedicel 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 0.5-1 mm long; middle sepal (lowermost) narrowly ovate, acuminate, 5 × 1.5 mm, concave, 3-veined; lateral sepals united into a synsepal which is uppermost, ovate, attenuate, 5 × 2 mm, concave, 4-veined; petals narrowly linear, acuminate, 4 × 0.25 mm, 1-veined; lip obscurely oblong, 3-lobed just below the middle and acutely deflexed near the middle, 2 × 1 mm spread out, lateral lobes triangular subacute, incurved in the natural position, middle lobe oblong, acuminate, acute with 2 smooth, low elevations, base long-unguiculate; column 1 mm long with a subulate rostellum, winged below the apex with an indistinct foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *tryssos*, "dainty, delicate," in allusion to the habit of the plant and quality of the flowers.

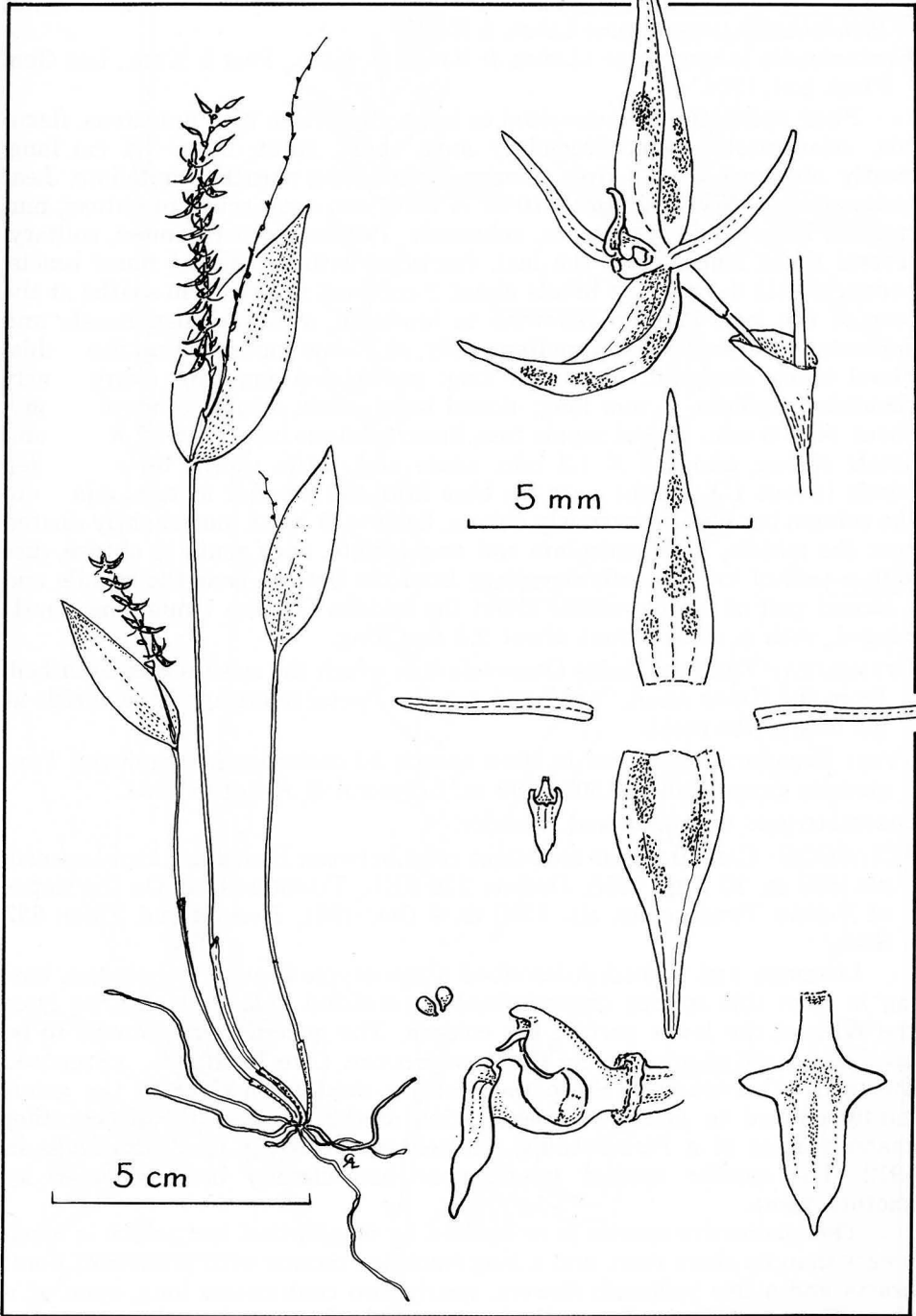
TYPE: ECUADOR: PICHINCHA: terrestrial on road embankment near km 85 between Quito and Santo Domingo, alt. 1500 m, 1 March 1975, C. Luer & R. Kent 223 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: PICHINCHA: epiphytic and terrestrial on road embankment near km 86 between Quito and Santo Domingo, alt. 1400 m, 1 Feb. 1963, C. H. Dodson & L. B. Thien 2210 (SEL); terrestrial near Chiriboga, km 70, alt. 1400 m, 3 July 1967, C. H. Dodson, N. H. Williams & R. M. Adams 3805 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

Pleurothallis tryssa is a very delicate little plant of the rain forests at moderate elevations on the western slopes of the Province of Pichincha. The long, frail, thread-like stems, laterally flattened near the junction with the leaf, bend and sway with the weight of the little ovate leaves which are terminated by acuminate setaceous apices. The fine, lace-like racemes hang over the edge of the more or less horizontal leaves so that the non-rotated flowers, which become pendent, present with their lips lowermost. The dainty, translucent green flowers are spotted with purple. The dorsal sepal and the similar synsepal are narrowly ovate and boat-shaped; the petals are narrowly linear; and the lip is three-lobed, deflexed near the middle with incurved lateral lobes.

This species was erroneously identified as *P. incurva* Lindl. in Selbyana 1:78.



PLEUROTHALLIS INCURVA Lindl.