

Pleurothallis veraguacensis Luer, sp. nov.

Habitu *P. rhodoglossae* Schltr. similis, sed differt sepalo dorsali crasso convexo, petalis rubris glabris anguste linearibus.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 5-10 cm long, with 2-3 tubular sheaths near the base, unifoliate. Leaf coriaceous, spreading, ovate, acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base deeply cordate, sessile, 4.5-7.5 cm long, 2.5-4 cm wide. Inflorescence fasciculate, the small, bilabiate flowers produced singly and successively from a spathe, 5-7 mm long, at the base of the leaf; floral bract 2-3 mm long; pedicel 5 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; dorsal sepal yellow, obovate, obtuse, thickened, convex, 5.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, 3-veined, sub-tricarinate externally; lateral sepals connate into a pale brown, elliptical synsepal, obtuse, 4.5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide; petals red, glabrous, narrowly linear, acute, 4 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 1-veined; lip ovate-cordate, the apex obtuse to rounded, the base concave, the disc smooth, yellow, flecked with brown, the glenion well developed, 1.75 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; column rose, short, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the Province of Veraguas where the species was discovered.

TYPE: PANAMA: VERAGUAS: epiphytic in the cloud forest near the continental divide above Santa Fe, alt. ca. 700 m, 5 Sept. 1976, C. Luer & R. L. Dressler 1141 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This small, broadly cordate-leaved species may be identified by its thickened, obovate, obtuse dorsal sepal which is convex above the middle and sub-tricarinate externally. The petals are glabrous and narrowly linear. The featureless, subcordate lip is very small.

Pleurothallis veraguacensis may be distinguished from *P. homalantha* Schltr., *P. homalanthoides* Schltr., and *P. nemorum* Schltr. by its smaller flower with a three-veined dorsal sepal (instead of five-veined). From *P. antonensis* L. O. Wms. it may be distinguished by its glabrous petals, and smaller flower and lip. It is most like *P. rhodoglossa* Schltr. which has a similar small lip, but a membranous, concave dorsal sepal.

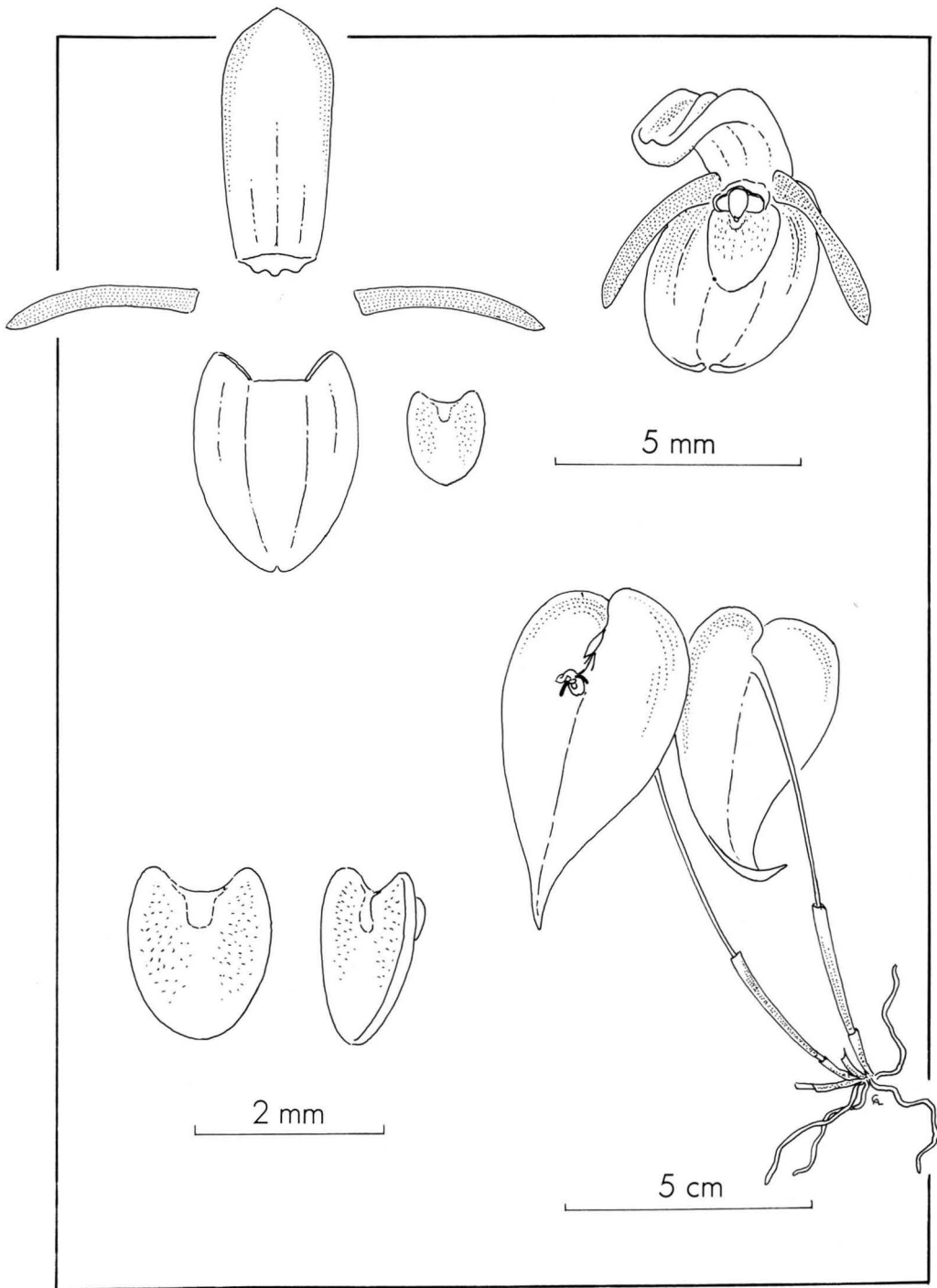


Figure 301. *PLEUROTHALLIS VERAGUACENSIS* Luer