

**Pleurothallis xanthella** Luer, sp. nov.

Herba minuta epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis abbreviatis, foliis ellipticis subacutis subpetiolatis, inflorescentia fasciculata ex apice pedunculi capilliformi, floribus singularibus xanthellis, sepalis carnosis purpureovittatis extra scaberulis ellipticis subacutis vel acutis, petalis spatulatis laciniatis vittatis bicarinatis, labello carnoso armeniaco verruculoso oblongo-ligulato ad basim bidentato.

Plant minute, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stem abbreviated, terete, 2-3 mm long, clothed by 1-2 thin, ribbed sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf elliptical, subacute, tridenticulate, marginate, the back surface minutely pusticulate, base narrowly cuneate, indistinctly petiolate, 10-12 × 3-4 mm, including the petiole. Inflorescence fasciculate, single-flowered, from the apex of a capillary peduncle about 25 mm long; floral bract acute, evanescent, 2-3 mm long, pedicel slender, 6 mm long; ovary yellow-green, with 6 rough keels, 1 mm long; dorsal sepal yellow-orange with 3 purple stripes, obovate, subacute, 5.5 × 2.5 mm, fleshy, scabrous externally along the margins and carinate veins; lateral sepals orange, each with a purple stripe, ovate, acute, slightly oblique, united to near the middle, each 5 × 2 mm, otherwise similar to the dorsal sepal; petals translucent yellow with 2 purple stripes, spatulate, oblique, the margins lacinate above the middle, 3 × 1 mm, bicarinate externally; lip yellow-orange and red centrally, the entire surface and margins verruculose, oblong-ligulate, apex rounded, the sides thick and elevated below the middle, base truncate, flanked by a pair of minute teeth; column terete, 3 mm long, winged and denticulate apically, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *xanthellus*, dim. of *xanthus* (from the Greek *xanthos*), "yellow-orange," in reference to the color of the flowers.

TYPE: ECUADOR: NAPO: epiphytic about 15 km west of Tena, alt. 600 m, 26 July 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 456 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

Vegetatively this minute plant is very similar to many others in the section *Apodae*: the bases of the little oval leaves which taper into indistinct petioles are supported by many times shorter secondary stems. The fascicle of successively appearing flowers is produced at the apex of a hair-like peduncle about twice as long as the leaf. The yellow-orange flowers are proportionately large for the plant. The sepals are striped with purple and carinate, the petals are spatulate and lacinate, and the entire surface of the oblong lip is microscopically verruculose, as if "beaded" with large red and yellow cells.

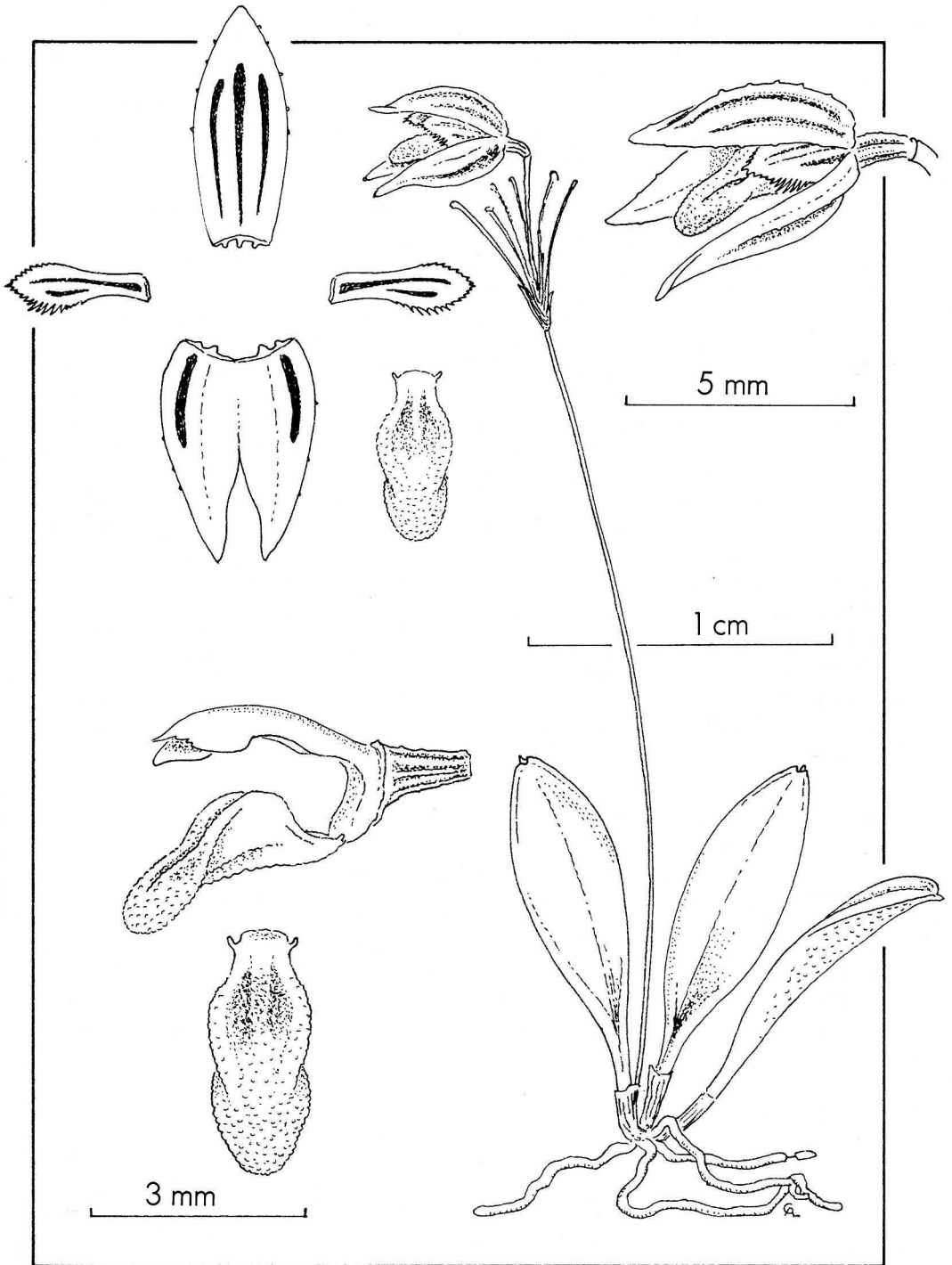


Figure 85. *PLEUROTHALLIS XANTHELLA* Luer