

***Pleurothallis caligularis* C. Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracillimis terebibus vaginis obtectis unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis ellipticis acutis breviter petiolatis, spatha minima, racemo bifloro, floribus carnosis purpureis, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque elliptico concavo, petalis ellipticis vel obovatis obtusis marginibus incurvis extus verruculosus intus lamellatis, labello albo purpureo picto caliguliformi trilobato, lobis basalibus erectis rotundatis, lobo antico multimagiori ovoideo excavato marginibus involutis.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems very slender, terete, 2-5 cm long, with 2-3 brown, tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf coriaceous, elliptical, acute, tridenticulate, the base cuneate with a short petiole 2-3 mm long, the blade 2.5-5 cm long, 10-12 mm wide. Inflorescence a short (to 2 cm long), 1- to 2-flowered raceme; flowers fleshy, red-purple with a prominent white lip; floral bract, pedicel, and ovary each about 2.5 mm long; dorsal sepal elliptical to obovate, acute, 10 × 4 mm, 3-veined; lateral sepals united into a concave, elliptical synsepal, subacute, minutely bidentate, 8 × 6 mm, 4-veined; petals elliptical to obovate, the apex obtuse with incurved margins, verruculose externally, smooth and lamellate within along the 3 veins, purple on translucent white, 4.5 × 2.5 mm; lip white, marked with purple toward the base, boot-shaped, 3-lobed, the basal lobes rounded and erect, the anterior lobe much larger, hollow, ovoid, with involute margins, and with a crest within down the center, the base concave and broadly united to the column-foot; column stout, 2.25 mm long, with a short, thick foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *caligula*, "a little boot" (dim. of *caliga*), in allusion to the shape of the lip.

TYPE: PANAMA: VERAGUAS: Guabal, Río Dos Bocas, 16 km NW of Santa Fe, alt. 500 m, 15 Nov. 1974, *R. L. Dressler 4808* (HOLOTYPE: SEL); same area, *R. L. Dressler, s.n.* (SEL), cult. at SEL, flowered 16 July 1976.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This dwarf relative of *Pleurothallis pachyglossa* Lindl. and its allies is apparently endemic in the cloud forests of central Panama. Rigid, little, elliptical leaves are borne on very slender secondary stems in dense clumps. The short, weak peduncle bears its one or two comparatively large flowers among the leaves. The snow white, thick, rounded lip is most conspicuous wedged between the bivalved, maroon sepals. The broad, obtuse petals are concave with a warty external surface.

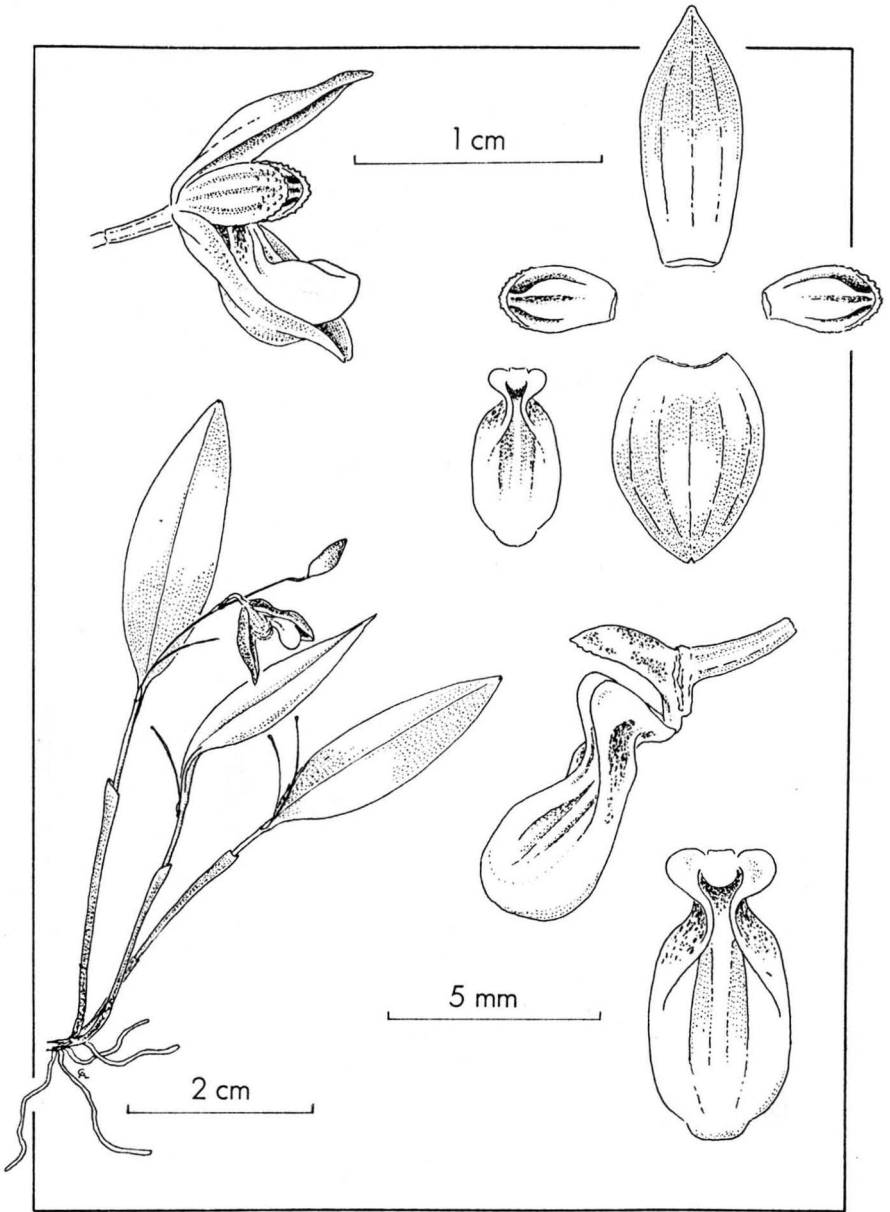


Figure 140. *PLEUROTHALLIS CALIGULARIS* C. A. Luer