

## 6. ***PLEUROTHALLIS COCORNAËNSIS*** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Species haec *P. imraei* Lindl. affinis, sed statura majore, racemis brevioribus multis congestis, sepalis intus dense brevipubescentibus, sepalis lateralibus semiconnatis, et labelli disco dense papillo-verrucoso distinguitur.

**TYPE:** Colombia: Dept. of Antioquia: Cocorná, along the autopista between Medellín and Bogotá, alt. 2100 m, collected by J. Rios, 1990, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 15 Dec. 1992, *R. Escobar 5047* (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17301; same area, Río Cocorná, alt. 1800 m, collected in 1987 by Bayron Pineda and Juan Pablo Velez, flowered in cultivation in Medellín, 7 Mar. 1989, *C. Luer 14109* (MO).

**ETIMOLOGIA:** Nombrada por la comunidad de Cocorná, cercana al sitio en donde se descubrió la especie.

**ETYMOLOGY:** Named for the community of Cocorná near where the species was discovered.

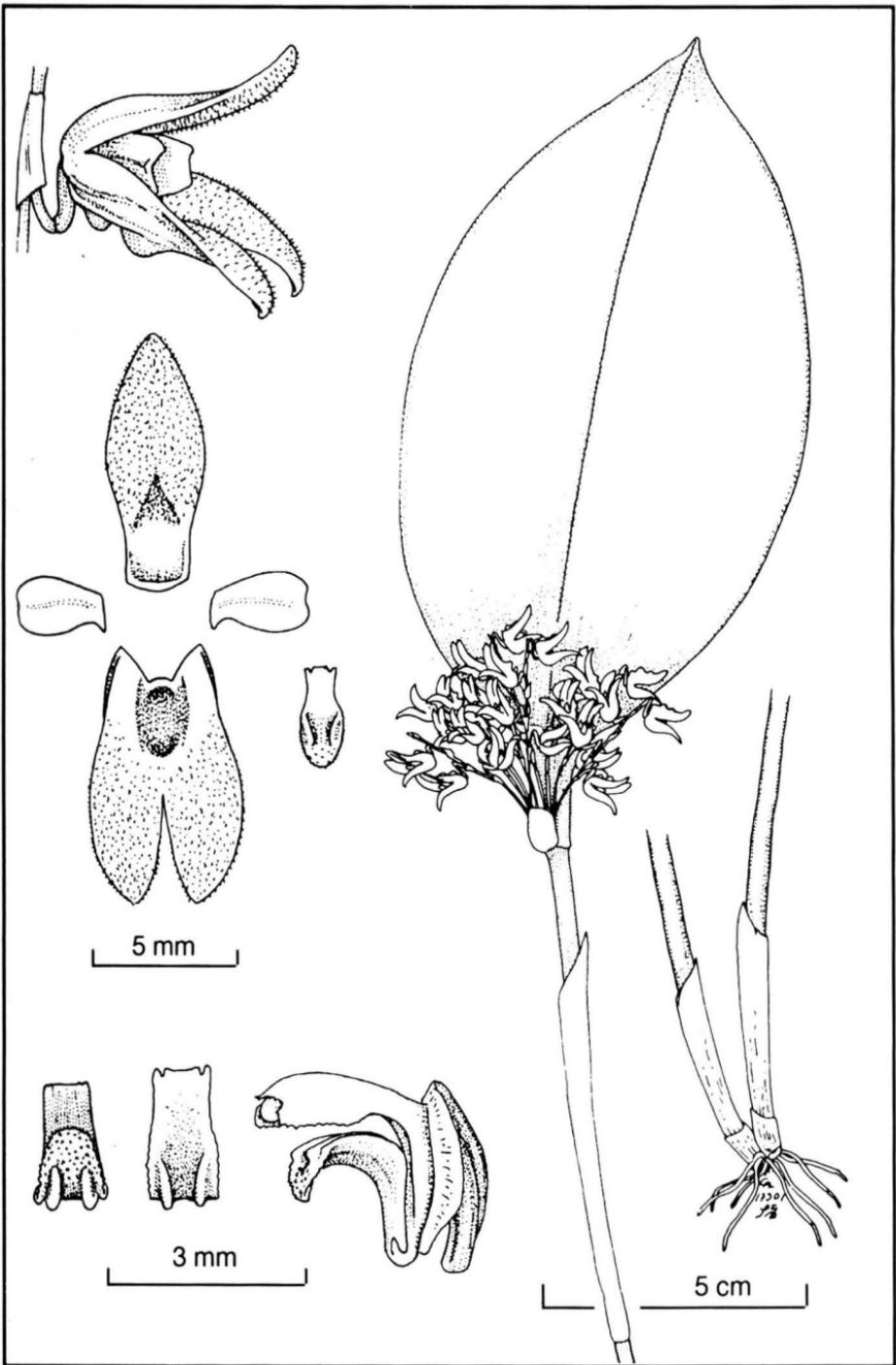
**Plant** large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls stout, erect, 20-30 cm long, with a loose, tubular sheath above the middle and 2-3 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical, obtuse, shortly acuminate, 15-25 cm long, 6-13 cm wide, cuneate below into a stout petiole 2-3 cm long, slightly twisted so that part of the inflorescence appears at the back of the base of the leaf. **Inflorescence** a congestion of numerous (up to 10 or more) simultaneously 3- to 4-flowered racemes, 2.5-3 cm long including the peduncle ca. 1 cm long, subtended by a broad spathe 1-

1.5 cm long, at or barely below the abscission layer (the apex of the ramicaul); flowers non-resupinate; floral bracts tubular, 3-4 mm long; pedicels 4 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** light pinkish brown, densely short-pubescent within, the dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, 9-11 mm long, 3.5-4 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals elliptical, obtuse, 9-11 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate 5-6 mm to near the middle, forming a short, conical mentum with the column-foot, and a broader, distinct mentum beneath the apex of the lip; **petals** rose, cuneate-obovate, truncate, 3.75-4 mm long, 1.25-1.4 mm wide above the middle, with the midvein thickened externally; **lip** brown, rigidly arcuate, oblong, unguiculate, 3.5-4 mm long expanded, 1.5 mm wide, the apex rounded, markedly verrucose, the disc with a longitudinal pair of parallel calli above the middle, base broadly unguiculate, minutely bilobulate, hinged on the end to the column-foot; **column** semiterete, winged above the middle, minutely denticulate, 3 mm long, the foot thick, equally long, the anther, rostellum and stigma ventral.

Esta especie enorme es una pariente cercana de la común y ampliamente distribuida *P. imraei*. Es aparentemente endémica en la Cordillera Central de Colombia al este de Medellín. Puede reconocerse por la hoja grande, peciolada, y la densa masa de flores, las que se producen en un fascículo de numerosos racimos cortos. Las flores moraduscas, son no-resupinadas y cortamente pubescentes en su interior, semejantes a una congregación de orugas. Los sépalos son angostamente elípticos, los laterales libres, en la mitad de su longitud, y el labelo es densamente papiloso y verrugoso, desde la base hasta el ápice.

This huge species is a close relative of the frequent and widely distributed *P. imraei*. It is apparently endemic in the Central Cordillera of Colombia east of Medellín. It is distinguished by the large, petiolate leaf, and the dense mass of flowers produced in a fascicle of numerous, short racemes. The purplish flowers are non-resupinate and shortly pubescent within that resemble a congregation of caterpillars. The sepals are narrowly elliptical, the laterals free for half their length, and the lip is densely papillose and verrucose from the base to the apex.





**PLEUROTHALLIS COCORNAÉNSIS** Luer & R. Escobar