

***Pleurothallis orectopus* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta mediocris vel grandis rhizomatosa, caule primario crasso producto vaginato, caulibus secundariis longis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis, foliis erectis ellipticis longipetiolatis, racemo brevi plurifloro floribus parvis flavis, sepalo dorsali ovato concavo, sepalis lateralibus ellipticis ad medium connatis supra medium sparsim pubescentibus, petalis obovatis obtusis, labello elliptico subtrilobato apice rotundato base concavo, lobis lateralibus late rotundatis callosis.

Plant medium to large, presumably epiphytic to terrestrial, repent, the primary stem stout, sheathed, producing a secondary stem about every 3 cm; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems ascending, slender, terete, more or less flexible, 21-30 cm long, unifoliate, with a closely fitting, long, tubular sheath near the middle and 1-2 others at the base. Leaf coriaceous, erect, narrowly elliptical, acute, tridenticulate, the base cuneate, distinctly petiolate, the petiole 3.5-4 cm long, the blade 10-12 cm long excluding the petiole, 2.5-3 cm wide. Inflorescence a single, erect, subaxillary several-flowered raceme, 4-8 cm long, from a spathe 12-15 mm long, at the apex of the stem, the flowers small, yellow; floral bract infundibular, acute, 3 mm long; pedicel 3-4 mm long; ovary 1.75 mm long; sepals lightly pubescent within above the middle, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, concave, 5.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals elliptical acute, connate to near the middle, 5.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide together, each 3-veined; petals obovate, obtuse, 3 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined; lip elliptical to indistinctly 3-lobed, the apex rounded, dilated near the middle with the broadly rounded sides curved up, the base concave to accommodate the column-foot, the disc with a pair of rounded, flattened calli near the margins of the lateral lobes, 2.25 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; column stout, 1.5 mm long, with a short, bulbous foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *orektos*, "stretched out," and *-pus*, "-footed," in allusion to the elongated rhizome.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: terrestrial on the road bank of the new road between Quito and Santo Domingo, alt. ca. 2000 m, 16 Aug. 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & S. Wilhelm 547 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Western Ecuador.

Pleurothallis orectopus is related to the horde of species characterized by fasciculate secondary stems from a short, ascending rhizome and contained within large, loose sheaths. It seems most closely allied to *P. ecuadorensis* Schltr. and *P. velaticaulis* Rehb. f., but it is distinguished from them by the elongated rhizome. The secondary stems are long and thin; the leaf is long-petiolate; and the raceme is short. The small flowers follow the pattern of the related species. The sepals are sparsely pubescent within. The lip is indistinctly three-lobed, the lateral lobes being overlaid by thick, rounded callosities.

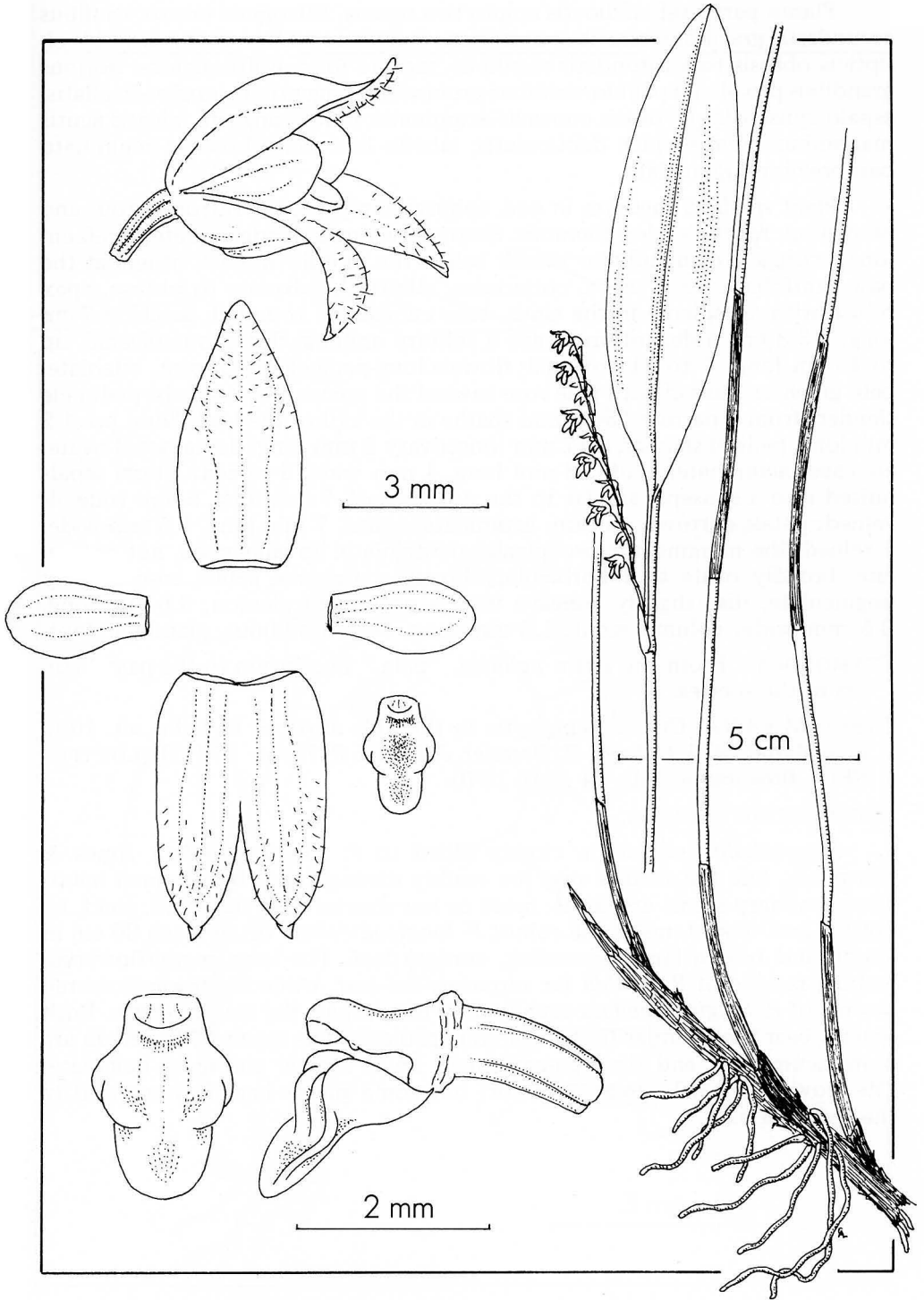


Figure 278. *PLEUROTHALLIS ORECTOPUS* Luer