

Pleurothallis psilantha Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *psilanthos*, "a bare flower," referring to the hairless sepals.

Inter species subgeneris *Unciferiae*, habitu parvo, racemo secundo plurifloro foliis anguste obovatis obtusis longiore, sepalis camosis carinatis subacutis glabris, petalis oblongis obtusis, et labelli lobis basalibus uncinatis cum disco supra medium bicalloso sed ad basim plano.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender, fasciculate. Ramicauls slender, erect, 6-10 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, obovate, obtuse to rounded at the apex, subpetiolate, 3-5 cm long, 0.7-0.8 cm wide, cuneate below into the conduplicate base. **Inflorescence** a subdense, secund, simultaneously several-flowered raceme 4-10 cm long including the slender peduncle 3-4.5 cm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 3 mm long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** translucent yellow, glabrous, thickly carinate, microscopically apiculate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, concave, 6 mm long, 2 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate above the middle into an ovate, bifid lamina, 5.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 6-veined; **petals** translucent, dark red, oblong-obovate, subacute, 2.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** dark red, 3-lobed, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, the anterior lobe oblong with the apex rounded, the lateral lobes erect, below the middle, narrowly uncinuate, antrorse, acute, the disc with a pair of calli on the middle third, extending from the bases of the lateral lobes onto the anterior lobe, the base thickened, smooth, truncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** semiterete, 3 mm long, denticulate-winged at the apex, the anther and stigma ventral, the foot thick with the apex of the ovary.

COSTA RICA: Heredia: Canton de Barva, northwest of Porrosatí, epiphytic, alt. 2000 m, 11 Nov. 1990, S. Ingram & K. Ferrell 714 (Holotype: CR; Isotypes: MO, SEL), C. Luer illustr. 16552. **Guanacaste:** near Candelaria, alt. 1100 m, 29 June 1989, J. T. Atwood 89-248 (SEL).

Vegetatively, this species is smaller than the usual *P. segoviensis*. It is distinguished from the numerous variations of the latter by the short, secund, simultaneously flowered raceme barely borne beyond the tips of the leaves by a slender peduncle; the average-sized flowers that are totally glabrous; sepals that are thickly carinate; and a three-lobed lip with narrow, acute, uncinuate lateral lobes. A pair of carinae extend forward from the lobes onto the disc, and the surface of the disc below the middle is slightly thickened and smooth, devoid of any callus or channel.

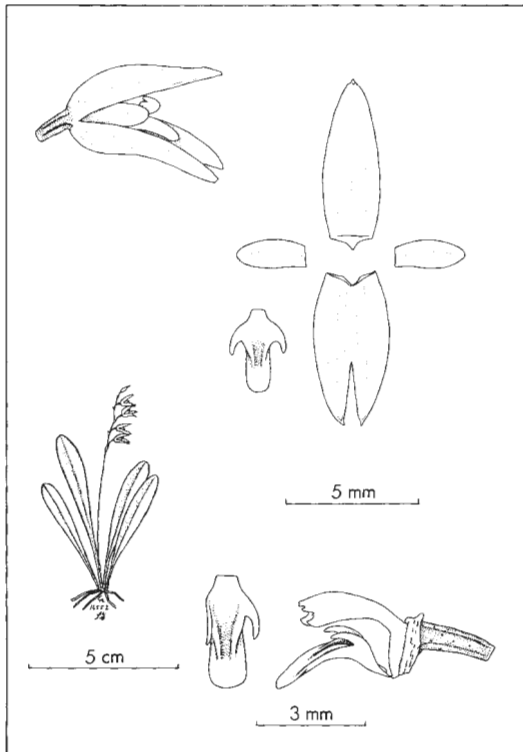


Fig. 8. *Pleurothallis psilantha*