

Platystele consobrina Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *consobrinus*, "a cousin," referring to a relationship with *Platystele misera*.

Species haec *P. miserae* (Lindley) Garay affinis, sed foliis acutis angustioribusque, racemis multilongioribus, floribus majoribus, sepalis acutis et labello subacuto differt.

Plant medium in size to large for the genus, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fleshy. Ramicauls erect, slender, 0.5-1.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, 3-6 cm long including a petiole 1.5-3 cm long, the blade elliptical, acute, 0.6-1 cm wide, cuneate below into the slender petiole. Inflorescence an erect, subdense, more or less secund, successively many-flowered raceme up to 50 cm long or longer, including the peduncle 5-15 cm long, several flowers produced simultaneously, emerging laterally from the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, 1.5-2 mm long; pedicels 3-5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals and petals rose with darker rose suffusion along the midvein, the sepals narrowly ovate, acute, glabrous, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals oblique, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, free to the base; petals narrowly ovate, acute, glabrous, 3.75 mm long, 0.8 mm wide; lip dark rose, thick, cellular-glandular, elliptical, subacute, 2.5 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the base subtruncate with a minute glenion, fixed to the column-foot; column cucullate, 0.5 mm long, 1 mm broad, the stigma bilobed, the foot rudimentary.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of La Ceja, between La Ceja and Río Piedras, alt. ca. 2200 m, collected by C. Head & R. Escobar, Sept. 1985, flowered in cultivation by the P. & A. Jesup in Bristol, CT., 6 May 1990, *C. Luer 14765* (Holotype: MO); same area, alt. 2150 m, 29 Apr. 1983, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar, M. Webb & A. Pridgeon 8864* (SEL); Munic. of Cañasgordas, Palmita, road to Boquerón, alt. 2300 m, 22 Apr. 1983, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar, M. Webb, A. Pridgeon & E. Hagsater 8750* (SEL); Munic. of Concepción, between Barbosa and Concepción, alt. 2200 m, collected by E. Valencia, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 17 Apr. 1988, *C. Luer 13258* (MO); Munic. of Frontino, above Frontino, alt. 2120 m, 2 May 1983, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar, A. Pridgeon & E. Valencia 9058* (SEL); Munic. of Jardín, Alto de Ventanas, alt. 2600 m, 26 May 1983, *R. Escobar 2708* (SEL); Munic. of Río Negro?, Alto del Buey between La Ceja and Abejorral, Apr., *F. C. Lehmann 4642* (AMES); above Aguadas, alt. 2500 m, 17 Sept. 1883, *F. C. Lehmann 3115* (G); Munic. of Urrao, Río Pabón, 7 Mar. 1944, alt. 2600-2800 m, *F. R. Fosberg 21577* (AMES). Dept. of Caldas: Río San Rafael below Cerro Tatamá, alt. 2600-2800 m, 7 Sept. 1922, *F. W. Pennell 10369* (AMES); southeast of Caldas, alt. 2650 m, 23 Oct. 1983, *A. Juncosa & G. Misas 1012* (MO). Dept. of Cauca: San Andres near Inzá, alt. 2300 m, 25 Feb. 1883, *F. C. Lehmann 2648* (G). Dept. of Risaralda: San Clemente, alt. 2100 m, 20 Apr. 1982, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & D. Porüllo 7468* (COL, SEL). Dept. of Valle del Cauca: Munic. Sevilla, finca Alsanieves between Sevilla and Barragán, alt. 2400 m, 10 Oct. 1981, *P. Silverstone 730* (COL).

This species is locally abundant in the northern parts of both the central and western cordilleras of Colombia. It has long been confused with the Peruvian *P. misera*. Only recently were some of the differences pointed out to me by H. Phillips Jesup who has cultivated the two species side by side for many years.

Vegetatively *P. misera* is *Masdevallia*-like with broad, thickly coriaceous leaves with obtuse to rounded apices. The leaves of *P. consobrina* are smaller, thinner, narrower, with acute to subacute apices, and with longer petioles. The inflorescence of *P. misera* may sometimes surpass the leaf by three times the length before it expires, but the inflorescence of *P. consobrina* flowers continuously for a year or longer, approaching a meter in length as it bends and loops in different directions. The flowers of *P. consobrina* are considerably larger than those of *P. misera* with more acute floral parts.

SYSTEMATICS OF PLATYSTELE

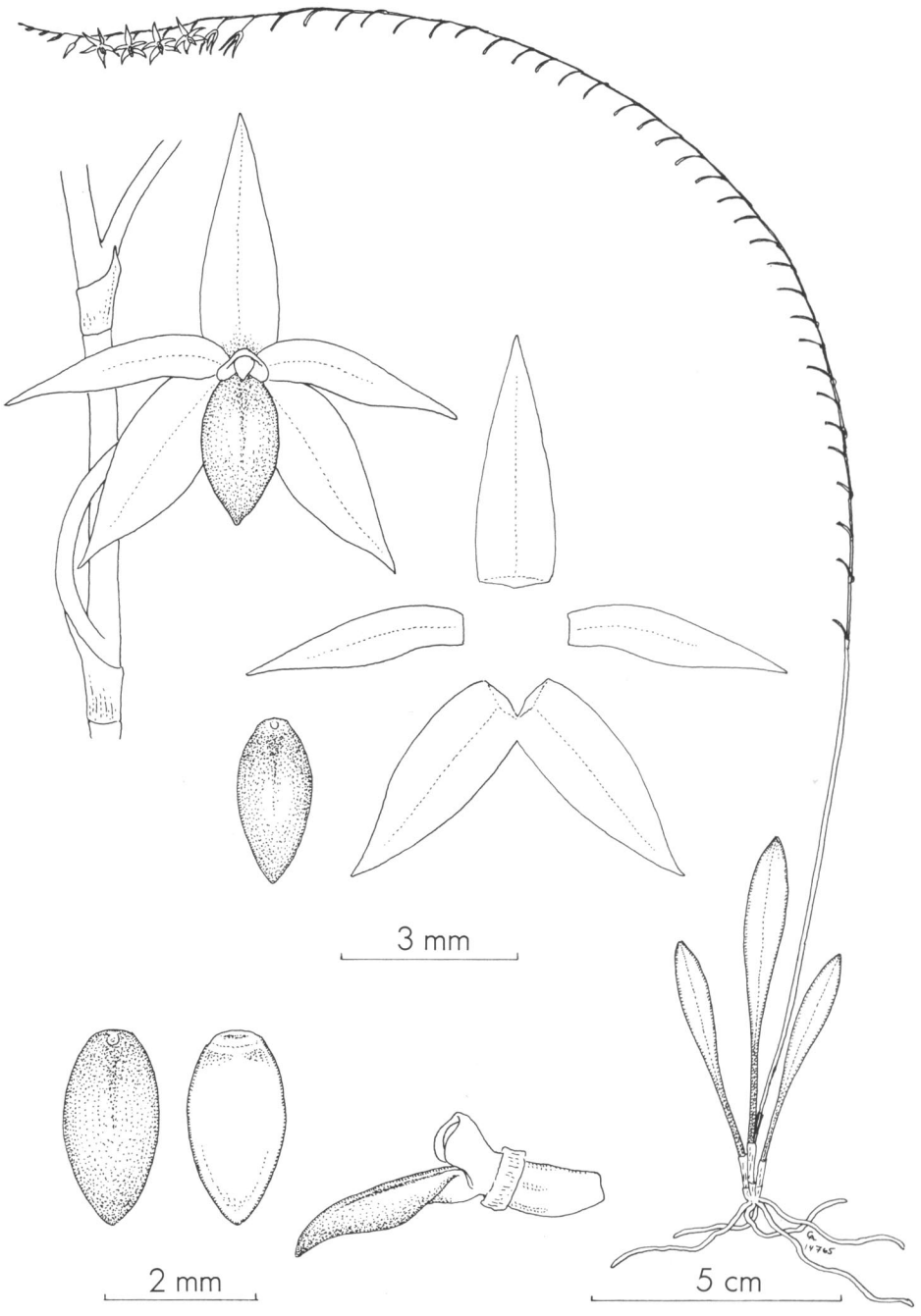


Plate 12. *Platystele consobrina* Luer