

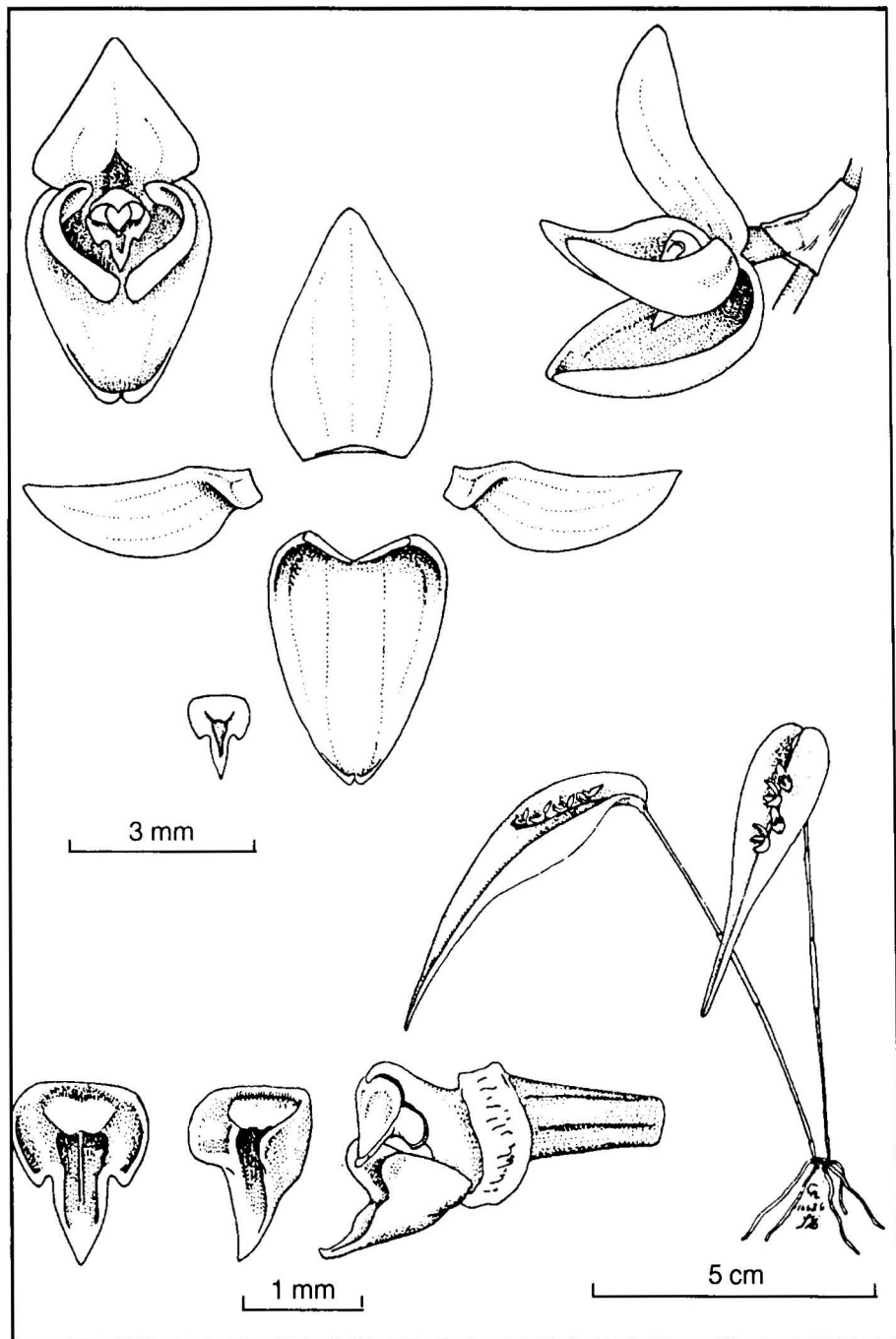


***PLEUROTHALLIS QUESTIONIS***  
Luer & R. Escobar.

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21. ***PLEUROTHALLIS QUESTIONIS*** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, racemo paucifloro folio ovato subcordato acuminato brevior, sepalo mediano synsepaloque concavo membranaceis ovatis, petalis subfalcatis acutis integris basi incrassatis, labello parvo trilobo calloso et columna proportione grandi.



***PLEUROTHALLIS QUESTIONIS*** Luer & R. Escobar.

**TYPE:** Colombia: Dept. of Chocó: San José del Palmar, Alto de Los Galápagos, alt. 2050 m, 13 May 1993, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar, A. De Wilde & J. Gómez 16803 (Holotype: MO); same area, collected by E. Valencia, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 12 Dec. 1992, R. Escobar 5028 (MO), C. Luer illustr. 16626.

**ETIMOLOGIA:** Del latín *quaestionis*, "discutible", en referencia a la incierta subsección de *Pleurothallis* en que debe colocarse la especie.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Latin *quaestionis*, "questionable," referring to the uncertain subsection of *Pleurothallis* to which the species should be assigned.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, suberect to erect, 5-13 cm long, enclosed by a thin tubular sheath on the lower half, and 1 or 2 short sheaths about the base. **Leaf** spreading, more or less horizontal, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, sessile, 3.5-7 cm long, 1.3-1.7 cm wide, the base subcordate or rounded. **Inflorescence** a loose, secund, few-flowered raceme 2-3 cm long of 4 simultaneous flowers, borne by a slender peduncle 1 cm long, reclining in the sulcus of the leaf, subtended by a spathe 3-4 mm long; floral bracts thin, infundibular, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 0.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; flowers resupinate; **sepals** pale yellow, membranous, the dorsal sepal ovate, narrowly obtuse, 3.75-4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals white, connate into a concave lamina, 4-4.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide unexpanded, 4-veined; **petals** pale yellow, thickened, especially at the base, subfalcate or obliquely ovate, acute, 3.75-4.25 mm long, 1.25-1.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** pale yellow, trilobed, 1.25 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apical lobe ovate, shallowly concave, acute, minutely apiculate, the lateral lobes below the middle, erect, broadly obtuse or rounded, thickened on the margin, disc concave above a broad, thick callus across the lower third, the base broadly subtruncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, the anther proportionately large, exposed, subapical, the stigma transverse, apical, the foot thick, less than 0.5 mm long.

Esta pequeña especie no tiene parientes cercanos. Un miembro de la sección *Pleurothallis* en virtud de la antera expuesta, con un estigma apical transverso y una inflorescencia racemosa, está situada en algún lugar entre las subsecciones *Acroniae* y *Macrophyllae-Racemosae*. Por el hecho de descansar el racimo sobre la hoja, puede debatirse si las flores son resupinadas o nó. El sépalo medio es abaxial. Miradas desde la base de la hoja, las flores son no-resupinadas. El hábito de pequeño a mediano con hojas ovadas, subcordiformes, sugiere *Acroniae*. La morfología de los sépalos puede encontrarse en cualquiera de las dos subsecciones.

Los pétalos enteros y subfalcados, engrosados en la base y con ápices agudos, sugieren a *Macrophyllae-Racemosae*. El labelo, trilobulado, puede presentarse en ambas subsecciones. Un callo parecido, grande, grueso, erecto, al través de la tercera parte inferior del disco, es ajeno a ambas subsecciones. Tal vez lo más indicado sería colocar esta especie en *Acroniae* por el hábito muy pequeño, el cual no se encuentra en *Macrophyllae-Racemosae*. Unas pocas especies en *Acroniae* tienen pétalos enteros.

This little species is without close relatives. A member of section *Pleurothallis* by virtue of the exposed anther with an apical, transverse stigma, and a racemose inflorescence, this species lies somewhere between subsections *Acroniae* and *Macrophyllae-Racemosae*. Because the raceme lies upon the leaf, it can be debated whether or not the flowers are resupinate. The unpaired or middle sepal is abaxial. Viewed from the base of the leaf, the flowers are non-resupinate. The small to medium-sized habit with ovate, subcordate leaves suggests *Acroniae*. The morphology of the sepals could be found in either subsection.

Suggestive of *Macrophyllae-Racemosae*, the petals are entire and subfalcate, thickened at the base, and with acute apices. The trilobed lip could be acceptable in either subsection. A similar, large, thick, erect callus across the lower third of the disc is foreign to both subsections. It would be more logical to place this species in *Acroniae* because of the very small habit not found in *Macrophyllae-Racemosae*. A few species in *Acroniae* have entire petals.