

***Pleurothallis volcanica* Luer sp. nov.**

Species haec ab *P. Rowleei* Ames differt floribus multiparvioribus et petalis integris.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 4-14 cm long, with a closely fitting tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, unifoliate. Leaf coriaceous, erect to spreading, ovate, acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base broadly cuneate to rounded, sessile, 4-8 cm long, 1.5-3 cm wide. Inflorescence a weak, suberect, laxly several-flowered (5-11), secund raceme, 5-14 cm long, the peduncle filiform, from a slender spathe 5-14 mm long at the base of the leaf; flowers small, pale rose, glabrous, bilabiate; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 4-9 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; dorsal sepal ovate, acuminate, acute, concave, 3.5-4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined; lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acuminate, acute, minutely emarginate synsepal, similar to the dorsal sepal, 3.25-4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 4-veined; petals pale orange, linear-oblong, oblique, acute, thickened, entire, 2.5-3 mm long, 0.5 mm wide; lip pale yellow, sagittate-trilobed, genuflexed near the middle, the apical lobe narrowly triangular, acute, the lateral lobes broadly subquadrate, incurved, the base deeply concave, the disc with a well developed glenion near the middle, 1.5 mm long; 1.5 mm wide; column stout, 1.5 mm long, with a bulbous foot.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the town of Volcán in the Province of Chiriqui, Panama, near which the species occurs.

TYPE: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in cloud forest near Río Chiriqui west of Volcán, alt. 1500 m, 12 Sept. 1976, *C. Luer & H. Butcher 1260* (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 123-76-64, flowered in cult. 18 Oct. 1976; on road-cut, Silla de Cerro Pando, west of El Hato del Volcán, 30 Nov. 1964, *R. L. Dressler 2962* (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Although obviously closely allied to *Pleurothallis longipedicellata* Ames & Schweinf. and *P. rowleei* Ames, this species is distinct in the thrice smaller flowers with entire petals. The flowers are not much smaller than those of *P. dentipetala* Rolfe, from which it is distinct in the longer pedicels as well as the smaller habit and entire petals.

Pleurothallis volcanica may be recognized by its slender secondary stems, ovate, acuminate leaves, and very small, pastel-colored, relatively long-pedicellate flowers borne in a loose raceme which exceeds the leaf to nearly twice its length. The similar, concave, acuminate dorsal sepal and synsepal spread to expose the minute lip flanked by entire, extended petals. The petals of all the related species are denticulate or ciliate.

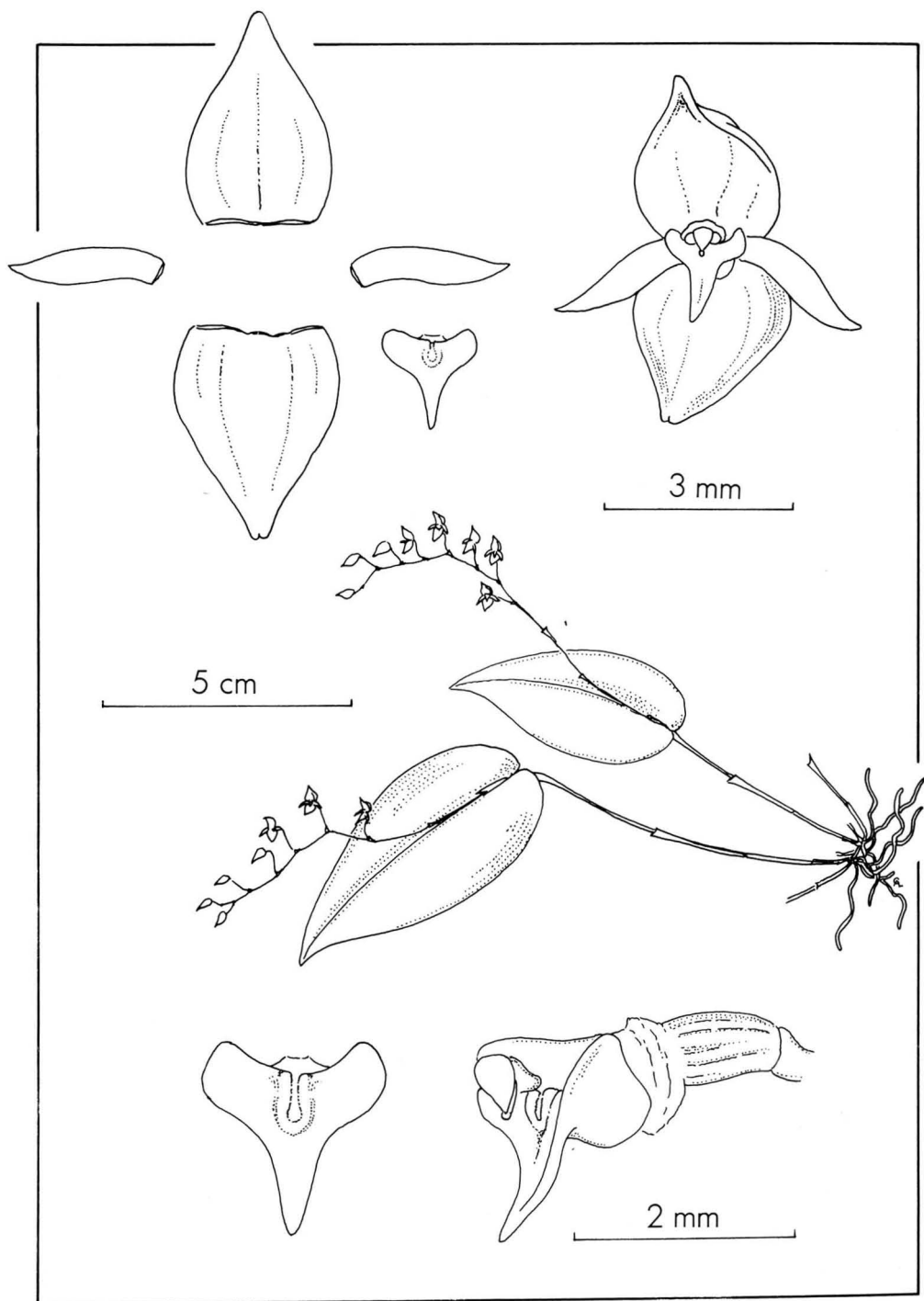


Figure 303. *PLEUROTHALLIS VOLCANICA* Luer