

A NEW SPECIES OF *PLEUROTHALLIS*
FROM VENEZUELA (ORCHIDACEAE)

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Pleurothallis perijaënsis Dunsterv. sp. nov.

Plate 1

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis gracilibus teretibus unifoliatis, foliis anguste ovatis acuminatis basi profunde cordatis, lobis basilibus erectis incurvatis, spatha conspicua sed non perpendiculari, floribus solitariis successivis coloratis, sepalo dorsali late elliptico subacuto, synsepalo late ovato, labello suborbiculato, galbino, plano, verrucoso, columna brevi, pede columnae brevissimo.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filamentous. Secondary stem slender, wiry, to 25 cm long, suberect to arcuate, unifoliate, with a close-fitting tubular sheath at the base and another below the middle. Leaf deflexed, thinly coriaceous, dull green, the mid-nerve virtually unmarked, narrowly ovate, to 22 cm long, 5 cm wide (seldom less than 2/3 the length of the secondary stem and frequently longer than the stem), the apex acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base deeply cordate with erect, incurved, basal lobes, the base attenuate in young forms. Inflorescence single, bilabiate flowers, sometimes facing the leaf, produced in succession from a prominent, but not perpendicular, dark red, conduplicate spathe 1 to 1.5 cm long at the base of the leaf, sepals and petals yellowish brown heavily overlaid with red flush and with dark red nerves, the dorsal sepal generally darker than the synsepal, the dorsal sepal broadly elliptic, to 16 × 12 mm, the lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovate to suborbicular synsepal, to 17 × 14 mm; petals to 13 × 6 mm, narrowly elliptic, the apex acute to acuminate, the margins finely erose (as the flower matures the margins of the sepals become increasingly revolute and the petals increasingly reflex finally wrapping around the base of the sepals); lip thick, yellowish cream pink at the base, broadly ovate, obtuse to 7 mm long, 6 mm wide, dorsally subglabrous and bearing three lightly raised nerves, ventrally verrucose, the verrucae forming ridges that lead from the apex to the margin near the base, the base itself ventrally glabrous and bearing an axial swelling; column short and stout, with a very short glabrous foot. Pollinia 2, with a small orbicular viscidium.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the locality of its discovery.

TYPE: VENEZUELA: ESTADO ZULIA: epiphytic in low positions on trunks of cloud-forest trees in the Sierra de Perijá on the trail from Pishicacao to the Colombian border, alt. ca. 1550 m, March 1972, J. A. Steyermark, G. C. K. & E. Dunsterville 105666 (HOLOTYPE: VEN).

This species resembles the cordate-leaved *P. northenae* Luer but differs from this by virtue of a lip that is relatively flat (not acutely folded back upon itself) and whose ventral surface is very rough, as indicated in the above description. Juvenile leaves have strongly attenuate, not cordate, bases. Its flowering season is extensive, and flowers may develop at any time from April through to December.

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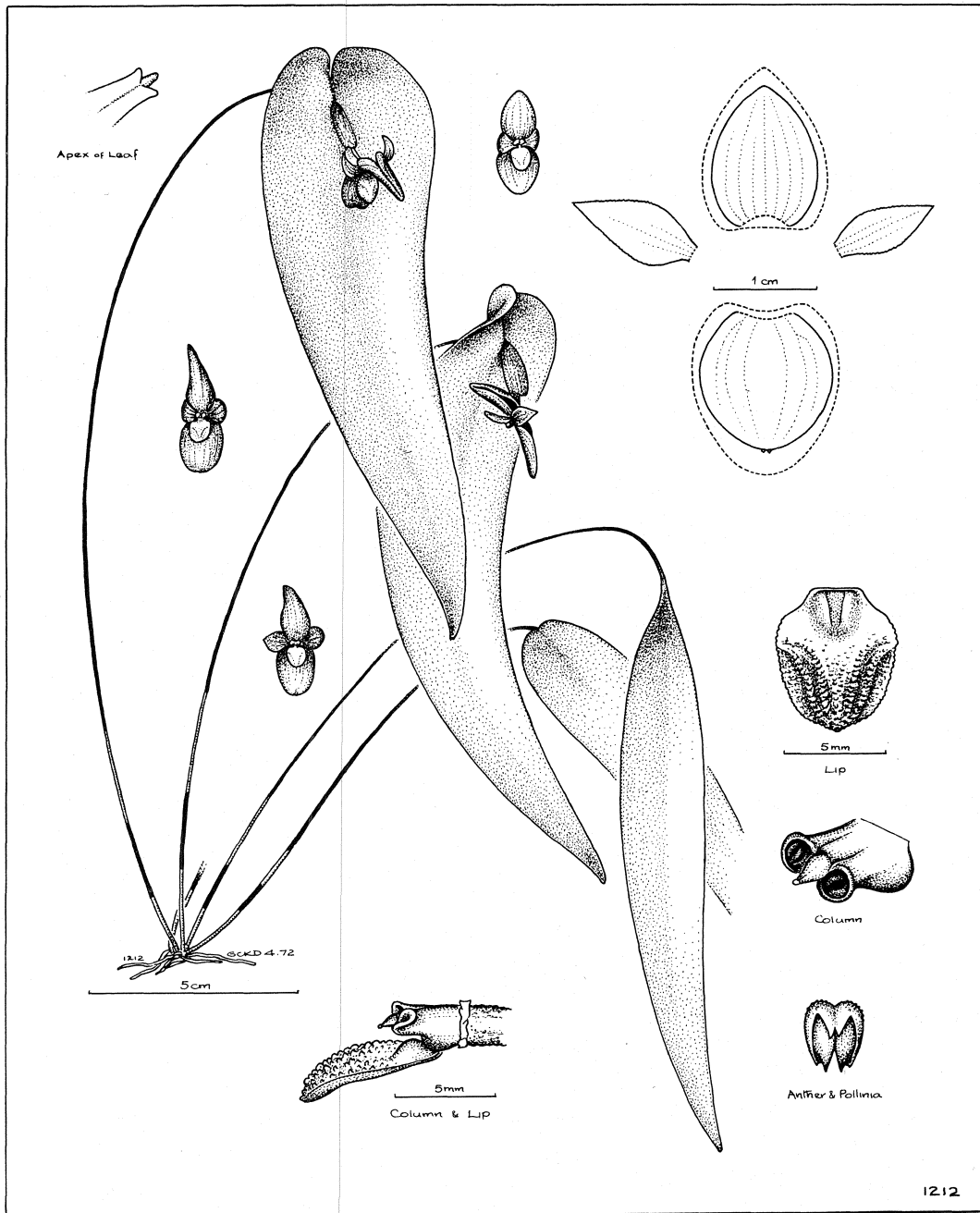


Plate 1: PLEUROTHALLIS PERIJAENSIS Dunsterv.