

**Pleurothallis smaragdina** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica breviter repens, caulibus secundariis brevissimis crassis unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis ellipticis subacutis, racemo contracto fractiflexo floribus singularibus successivis, pedunculo longo gracili, sepalis anguste ovatis acuminatis puberulis lateralibus libris, petalis anguste ovatis acuminatis ciliatis ad apicem atropurpureis ad basim smaragdinis, labello oblongo apice rotundato ciliato infra medium bidenticulato basi biauriculato smaragdino atropurpureo irregulariter limbato.

Plant small, epiphytic, shortly repent; rhizome stout, producing a secondary stem about every 5 mm; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stem short, thick, terete, 0.5-1 cm long, unifoliate, invested by 2-3 brown, tubular sheaths. Leaf ascending to erect, rigid, thick, elliptical, subacute, tridentulate, base cuneate, sessile, 4-6.5 × 1.5-2 cm. Inflorescence racemose, contracted, fractiflex, few-flowered (5-20), the flowers appearing singly and successively; peduncle purple, slender, ascending, 10-15 cm long, from a 2 mm spathe at the base of the leaf; floral bract brown, oblique, acute, 4 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary purple-brown 1.5 mm long; dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, acuminate, acute, 12 × 3 mm, 3-veined, fleshy, green basally with a short brown-purple, velvety pubescence toward the apex, the margins minutely ciliate; lateral sepals free, recurved, oblique, similar to the dorsal sepal; petals very narrowly ovate, acuminate, acute, slightly oblique, 8 × 1.5 mm, bright emerald green, edged in purple-brown and shortly ciliate; lip oblong, ligulate, with a pair of short, erect, intramarginal teeth just below the middle, apex rounded with a finely ciliated margin, base very shortly hinged to the column-foot and flanked by a pair of pedunculated lobes, 3.5 × 1 mm, bright emerald green with an irregular border of dark purple; column red, terete, 2.5 mm long, clinandrium denticulate, with a 1 mm long foot. ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *smaragdinus*, "emerald green," in reference to the color of the petals and lip.

TYPE: ECUADOR: PASTAZA: epiphytic near Tena, alt. 600 m, 26 July 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & Wilhelm 473 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Ecuador.

The most outstanding characteristic of this unusual species is the emerald green color of the lip and inner surfaces of the petals which are bordered by a deep brown-violet margin. Although green is a common color in *Pleurothallis*, the deep richness of the green within the flower is equaled in no other. Perhaps the hue is accentuated by the blackish purple edging.

*Pleurothallis smaragdina* is a short-stemmed species which produces its rigid leaves in dense clusters although the rhizome is shortly creeping. The long, slender peduncle appears from the axil of the leaf to support the compact, zigzag raceme twice higher than the blade. The flowers are generated slowly and singly at prolonged intervals over an extended period of time. The acuminate, velvety sepals reflex widely to expose the narrowly pointed petals aiming together straight forward.

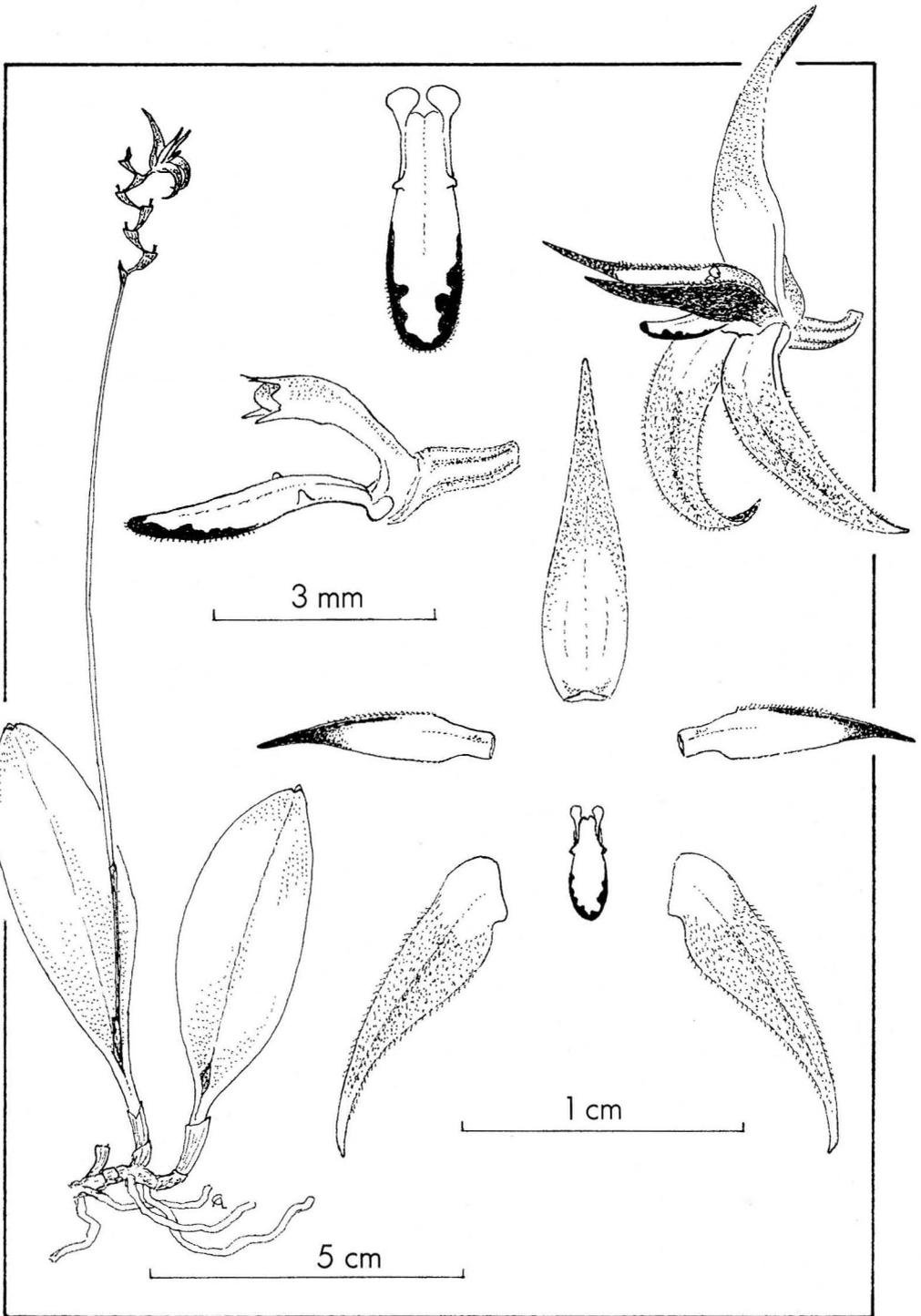


Figure 80. *PLEUROTHALLIS SMARAGDINA* Luer