

Pleurothallis titan Luer, sp. nov.

Habitu et flore *P. cardiothallidis* Rchb. f. similis, sed statura multima-
jore floris et margine labelli glabro differt.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, terete, 12-20 cm long, with a closely fitting tubular sheath below the middle and 1-2 others at the base, unifoliolate. Leaves ovate, acuminate, acute, tridenticulate, the base deeply cordate, sessile, 10-20 cm long, 4-7 cm wide. Inflorescence fasciculate, the huge, widely spread flowers produced singly and successively from a spathe about 2 cm long in the axil of the leaf; pedicel 15-18 mm long; floral bract 6-7 mm long; ovary curved, 10 mm long; sepals glabrous, pale rose-brown, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 30-35 mm long, 15-17 mm wide, 9-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acute synsepal, 33 mm long, 21 mm wide, 10-veined; petals pale rose-brown, narrowly triangular, acuminate to acute, 15 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined; lip pale yellow, oblong-obovate to subpandurate, the apex subacute, the tip bulbous, the thickened margins glabrous, the base shallowly concave, subcordate, 14 mm long, 8.5 mm wide, 7-veined; column stout, 1.5 mm long, 4 mm wide.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for Titan of Greek mythology, noted for his immense size.

TYPE: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in cloud forest above the Fortuna dam camp site, alt. 1000 m, Aug. 1976, R. L. Dressler s.n. (HOLOTYPE: SEL), cult. at SEL, greenhouse acc. no. 123-76-20, flowers intermittently in cult.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

The flower of this species resembles a gigantic flower of *Pleurothallis cardiothallis* Rchb. f. Since these two plants most certainly rely upon different pollinators, and since both occur sympatrically in western Panama, they most likely represent distinct, although closely allied species. Vegetatively the plants of the two species are very similar although the deeply cordate leaves of *P. titan* are proportionately narrower than those of *P. cardiothallis*. The dimensions of the huge flat flower are more than twice to three times those of *P. cardiothallis*, which makes the surface area over four to nine times as great. The pandurate lip is glabrous and wider above the middle.

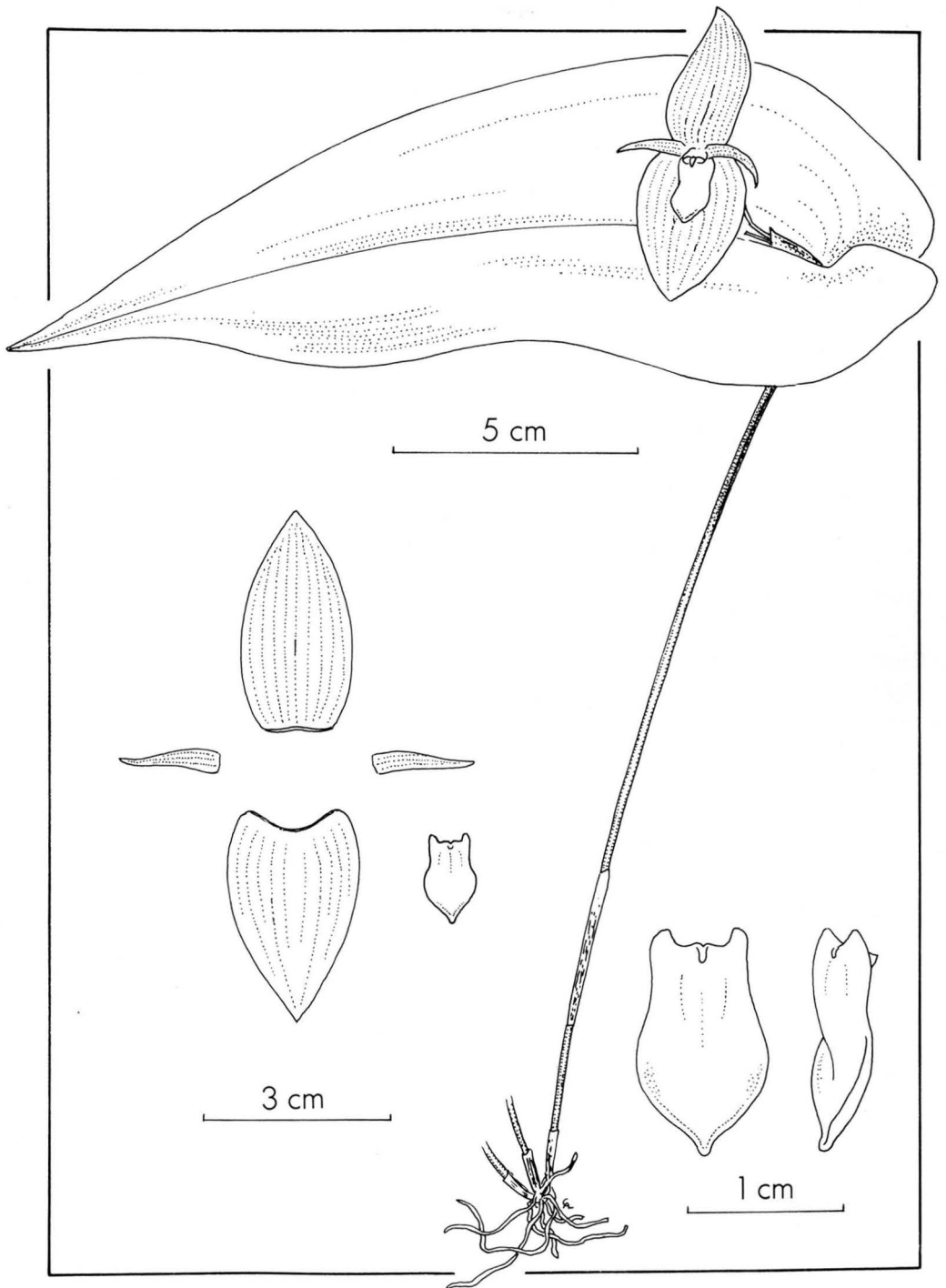


Figure 300. *PLEUROTHALLIS TITAN* Luer