

Observations of Flower Color Variation in *Pleurothallis titan*

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Pleurothallis titan is arguably one of the most well-known species of *Pleurothallis*. Just hearing the name of this species conjures up mental images of its large, yellow flowers, but interestingly, when the species was originally described in 1977, a yellow-flowered specimen had not yet been seen. Although a yellow-flowered specimen was found just a few years later, it would take almost three-decades for the description to be revised to reference the familiar canary yellow flowers of the species.

Advances in technology, such as digital cameras and now camera phones, have made it much easier to document species observations in the field, and websites like flickr and iNaturalist allow these observations to be shared instantaneously. If *Pleurothallis titan* were being described today, in 2022, the description of the species would probably look very different from the original 1977 publication.

The following compilation of photographs represent observations by both citizen scientists and professional scientists. These observations illustrate the wide range of color variation exhibited in the flowers of *Pleurothallis titan*.



Fig. 1. *Pleurothallis titan* at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.
Photo by: Kevin W. Holcomb



Fig 2. *Pleurothallis titan* *in situ* Cerro El Ingles Reserve, Valle del Cauca, Colombia.
Photo by: Duvan Garcia.

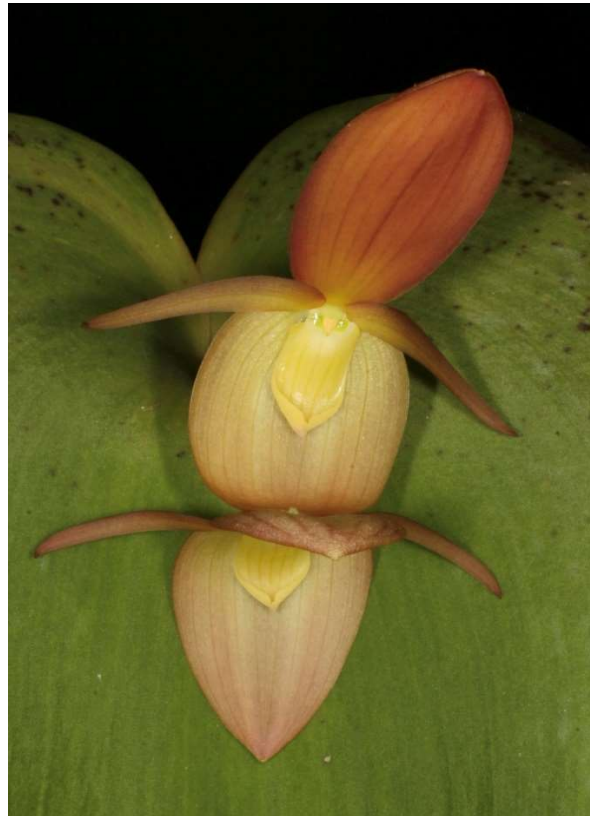


Fig 3. *Pleurothallis titan* photographed at Ecugenera Nursery, Gualaceo, Ecuador.
Photo by: Duane McDowell.

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Fig 5. *Pleurothallis titan* photographed *in situ* Florián, Santander, Colombia.
Photo By: Ángela Patricia Rojas Cortes



Fig 6. *Pleurothallis titan* at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.
Photo By: Kevin Holcomb

References

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