

Pleurothallis solaris* K.W. Holcomb, *sp. nov.

Plant to 20 to 25 cm tall, epiphytic, possibly terrestrial, caespitose, roots slender.

Ramicauls 20 to 38 cm long, slender, erect to suberect, a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

Leaf 15.5 to 18.5 cm long, 4.75 to 6.2 cm wide, glaucous, ovate, acute.

Inflorescence a successive, solitary, resupinate flower borne from a 1.125 mm long spathaceous bract at the base of the leaf.

Labellum (Lip) 8.25 mm long, 8 mm wide, subpandurate, dorsal surface glabrous, yellow with orange veins, concave at the end with a small callus on the ventral side.

Dorsal Sepal 2 cm long, 1 cm wide, orange suffused with yellow, 5-veined, ovate, concave below the middle, acute.

Synsepal 2 cm long, 1.25 cm wide, orange suffused with yellow, 6-veined, ovate, concave below the middle, acute.

Petals 7.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, orange, 2-veined, falcate, acute.

Column 2 mm long, 3 mm wide, terete, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology: From the Latin *solaris*, “of the sun”, referring to the bright orange color of the flower.

Type: COLOMBIA Antioquia: Without collection data. Obtained from Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, Ecuador by Andy’s Orchids, Encinitas, California, as *Pleurothallis lunaris*. Acquired from Andy’s Orchids by the author in 2021. Flowered in cultivation by the author in 2021. *K. W. Holcomb (Holotype: GEO 18283)*

Distribution: While the exact location of the holotype is unknown, *Pleurothallis solaris* has been observed *in situ*. In March 2018, the species was observed in Antioquia, Colombia. This observation was documented on iNaturalist.org as an undescribed *Pleurothallis* species.

Diagnosis: *Pleurothallis solaris* is most similar to the recently described *P. villahermosae* (Sierra-Ariza, *et al.* 2022). However, it can be distinguished by the large, single flower that sits on top of the leaf, near the base, opened at slightly more than a 90-degree angle, as well as, its significantly longer, broader, glabrous lip. *P. solaris* also does not have a revolute dorsal sepal, whereas, *P. villahermosae* does. Observations of *P. solaris* in cultivation confirm the dorsal sepal does not reflex at any point during anthesis.



Pleurothallis solaris
Photos taken of the plant used to prepare the holotype.



Pleurothallis solaris photographed *in situ* in Antioquia, Colombia.
Photo By: Sebastián Berrío Montoya