# *Pleurothallis cottenii K.*W. Holcomb, *sp. nov.*

*Plant* medium in size, 18 cm tall, epiphytic, caespitose, roots very slender.

*Ramicauls* 17 to 25 cm long, very slender, suberect to horizontal, enclosed by a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

*Leaf* 9 to 11 cm long, 2.5 to 4 cm wide, coriaceous, rigid, cordate, the base sessile.

*Inflorescence* a fascicle of successive, single, resupinate flowers, 35 mm long, borne from a spathaceous bract at the base of the leaf.

*Labellum (Lip)* 4.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, yellow or yellow suffused with purple, oblong, the base truncate, obtuse, dorsal surface glabrous with a shallow glenion at the base, margins microscopically denticulated.

*Dorsal Sepal* 17 mm long, 11 mm wide, yellow, glabrous, 5-veined, broadly ovate, concave, deflexed just below the middle, acute.

*Synsepal 18* mm long, 7 mm wide, yellow or purple, glabrous, 4-veined, margins revolute, acute.

*Petals* 12 mm long, 2 mm wide, yellow or yellow with purple margins, glabrous, 1-veined, crescent-shaped, margins minutely denticulated, entire, acute.

*Column* 0.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, bilobed, the anther and stigma ventral.

Eponomy: Named for Brad Cotten of San Francisco, California, who cultivated this species.

ECUADOR: Without collection data. *K.W. Holcomb 18303 (Holotype: GEO)*, K.W. Holcomb 18305 (GEO).

Diagnosis: *Pleurothallis cottenii* is similar to the recently described *Pleurothallis quitu-cara* (Carrera et al. 2018). However, there are significant differences in the floral morphology of the two species:

- *Pleurothallis cottenii* has a concave dorsal sepal which is deflexed just below the middle, whereas the dorsal sepal of *P. quitu-cari* is entirely concave.
- The petals of *P. cottenii* are not folded under the lip compared to the petals of *P. quitu-cari*.
- The lip of P. cottenii does not have a callus on the underside at the apex, compared to the lip of *P. quitu-cari*.
- Finally, *Pleuothallis cottenii* is most easily recognized by its slightly shorter lip that is flat against the synsepal.


Fig. 1. *Pleurothallis cottenii*
Photos taken of the same plant used to prepare the holotype material (GEO *18303).*

Fig. 2. *Pleurothallis cottenii* (GEO 18305)
Photo courtesy of Ron Parsons.