

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

Plant 5 cm tall, epiphytic, caespitose, roots very slender.

Ramicauls up to 3.25 cm long, very slender, suberect, enclosed by a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

Leaf 3.75 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, the base cuneate, sessile.

Inflorescence a single, successive, resupinate flower, 4.25 cm long, a curved, suberect pedicel 2.5 cm long, borne from a reclining spathaceous bract at the base of the leaf.

Labellum (Lip) 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, red, glabrous, narrowly triangular, trilobed, uncinata basal lobes erect flanking the column with a very shallow, poorly defined glenion at the base, slightly concave at the middle, margins serrate, apex acute.

Dorsal Sepal 2.125 cm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, reddish purple, membranous, glabrous, long attenuate, concave, acute.

Synsepal 2.125 cm long, 5 mm wide, 4-veined, reddish purple, membranous, glabrous, long attenuate, concave, acute.

Petals 2 cm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, reddish purple, extended almost perpendicular to the lip, elliptical, subsigmoid, oblique, acute.

Column 2 mm long, 1 mm wide, semiterete, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology: From the Latin *gymnastica* “gymnastics” a reference to the flower that tends to balance on top of the leaf resembling a gymnast on a balance beam.

ECUADOR: Without collection data. K.W. Holcomb 18310 (Holotype: GEO), K.W. Holcomb

*Pleurothallis gymnastica* is similar to *Pleurothallis amphigia* (Luer & R. Escobar 1981). Although vegetatively the two species are indistinguishable, there are significant differences in the floral morphology. *P. gymnastica* has a much longer, narrower lip with serrate margins. However, *P. gymnastica* is most easily distinguished by its extremely long petals that are extended out in front of the flower almost perpendicular to the lip. The flowers also frequently balance on top of the leaf resembling a gymnast on a balance beam.



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Photos taken of the plant used to prepare the holotype material.