

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

Plant up to 26 cm tall, epiphytic, caespitose, roots very slender.

Ramicauls up to 43 cm long, very slender, suberect to horizontal, enclosed by a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

Leaf 14 cm long, 8.5 cm wide, coriaceous, deeply cordate, acute, the base cuneate, sessile.

Inflorescence a single, successive, canary yellow, resupinate flower, 3.6 cm long, borne from a reclining spathaceous bract at the base of the leaf.

Labellum (Lip) 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, canary yellow, shield-shaped with a well-developed glenion, the glenion surrounded by a depression, trilobed, basal lobes rounded, erect flanking the column, folded forward, the margins folded or cupped above the base to the apex, apex acute. The entire lip is covered with a thick, nectar-like liquid beginning on the 2nd day of anthesis.

Dorsal Sepal 1.8 cm long, 8 mm wide, 3-veined with 2 support veins along the margins, canary yellow, membranous, glabrous, ovate at the base, convex, acute.

Synsepal 1.8 cm long, 10 mm wide, 4-veined with 2 support veins along the margins, canary yellow, membranous, glabrous, ovate at the base, convex, acute.

Petals 12 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined, canary yellow, reflexed, oblique, acute.

Column 0.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, bilobed, the anther and stigma apical.

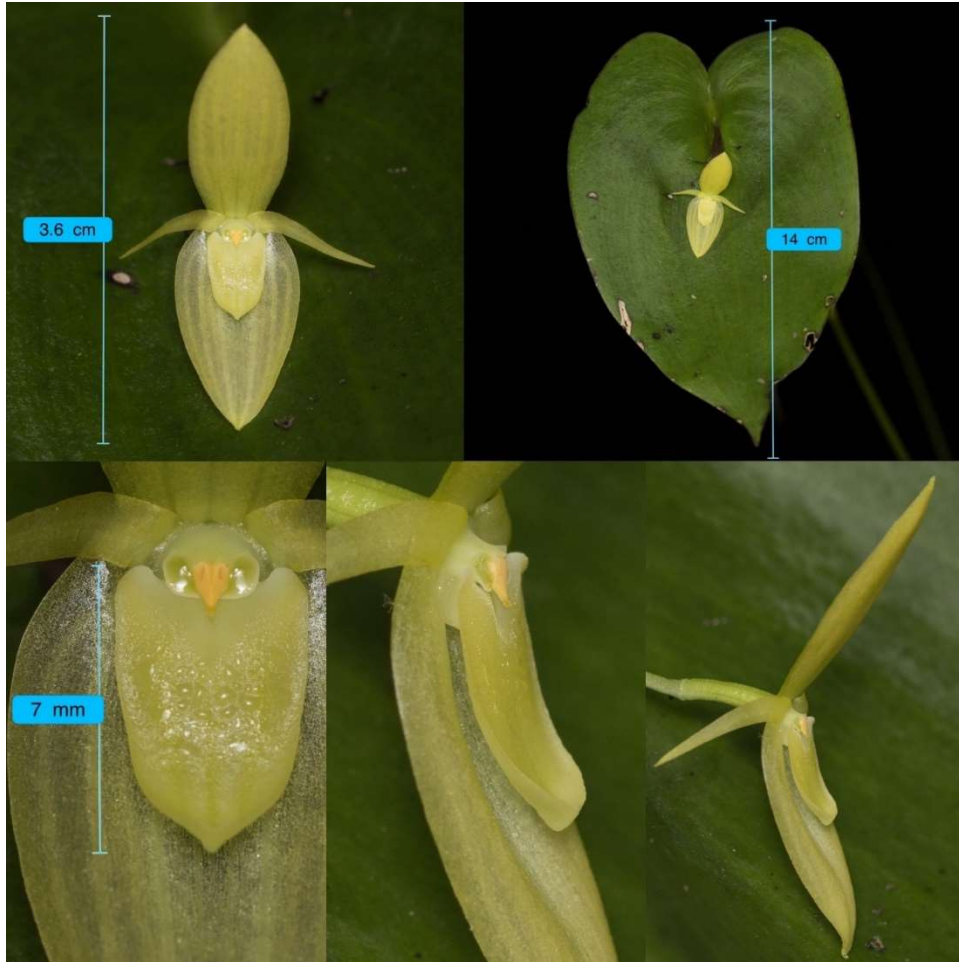
Etymology: From the Latin *perfusa* “drenched” or “soaked” a reference to the lip which is covered with drops of a nectar-like liquid.

COLOMBIA: Without collection data. *K.W. Holcomb 18311 (Holotype: GEO)*

Pleurothallis perfusa is similar to the Costa Rican species, *Pleurothallis callosa* (Pupulin *et. al.* 2021). However, it differs by having a shorter, very flat lip. Its most distinctive feature is that the lip is covered with a thick, nectar-like substance.

Three flowers were observed in cultivation. Anthesis lasted 7-days for all three flowers. The flowers were observed before being watered each day in order to confirm the nectar was not simply moisture from daily watering.

On Day 1 of anthesis (Fig. 1), the lip and sepals are all concave and no liquid is visible on the lip. On day 2 (Fig. 2), small patches of moisture appear on the lip. On Day 3 (Fig. 3), the sepals reflex, and large amounts of a nectar-like liquid is visible around the column, in the glenion, and most notably, large globules appear on the surface of the lip. Days 4 through 6 (Fig. 4), the liquid is still visible around the column, the glenion, and the surface of the lip. On Day 7 (Fig. 5), the flower closes.



Pleurothallis perfusa

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



Fig 1.



Fig 2.



Fig 3.



Fig 4.



Fig 5.