

Pleurothallis josefinae K.W. Holcomb, sp. nov.

Plant to 6.5 cm tall, epiphytic, caespitose, roots very slender.

Ramicauls to 9.5 cm long, very slender, suberect, enclosed by a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

Leaf 6 cm long, 3.25 cm wide, coriaceous, cordate, acute, the base cuneate, sessile.

Inflorescence a single, successive, resupinate flower held flat against the surface of the leaf, 2.6 cm long, borne from a spathaceous bract at the base of the leaf.

Labellum (Lip) 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, canary yellow, glabrous, oblong-ovate, concave from the base to the middle, convex from the middle to the apex, apex acute.

Dorsal Sepal 14 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, yellow, glabrous, convex, oblong-ovate, acute.

Synsepal 12 mm long, 5 mm wide, 4-veined, yellow, glabrous, oblong-ovate, acute.

Petals 10 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined, fleshy, yellow, narrowly triangular, entire, acute.

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

Eponymy: Named in honor of Josefina Markesis-Phillips beloved daughter of Andy Phillips of Encinitas, California.

Ecuador: Without collection data. *K.W. Holcomb 18316 (Holotype: GEO)*.

Pleurothallis josefinae has circulated in the trade for years incorrectly identified as *P. crucifera*. While the two species are similar, *P. josefinae* can be distinguished by its large, thick, semi-translucent flowers that are almost as large as the leaf. In addition, *P. josefinae* has an oblong-ovate lip that is concave only from the base to the middle and convex from the middle to the apex, whereas *P. crucifera* has a triangular lip that is completely concave.



Pleurothallis josefinae

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

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Lip comparison
Top: *P. crucifera*, Bottom: *P. josefinae*



Left: *P. josefinae* Right: *P. crucifera*