

## PLEUROTHALLIDINAE

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

Plant: Medium-sized, epiphytic, caespitose plant, very thin roots.

Ramicauls: to 20 cm long, very thin, suberect, enclosed by a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

Leaf: 7.5 cm long, 4.25 cm wide, coriaceous, ovate, acute, the base cuneate, sessile.

Inflorescence: a single resupinate, successive flower, born from a reclining spathaceous bract at the base of the leaf.

Labellum (Lip): 7 mm long, 4 mm wide, red, oblong with a well-developed orbicular glenion, verrucose, trilobed, basal lobes rounded, apex subacute with an apical crusulum.

Dorsal Sepal: 22 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, yellow-gold, membranous, glabrous, ovate-oblong, convex, margins reflexed, acute.

Synsepal: 19 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, yellow, membranous, glabrous, ovate-oblong, convex, reflexed, acute.

Petals: 13 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined, yellow suffused with red, descending, elliptical, acute.

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

Eponomy: Named for Ray Gabaldon of Belen, New Mexico.

Venezuela: Without collection data. *K.W. Holcomb 19669 (Holotype: GEO)*

Diagnosis: This species has circulated in the trade for years under the incorrect name, *Pleurothallis bulbosa*, a species to which it bears no resemblance. It is a microcardiiform species which is most similar to *P. chaparensis* a species which was collected over 3,000 km away in Bolivia. It can be distinguished by its descending petals vs. the ascending petals of *P. chaparensis*. However, the most significant difference is in the size of the lip. The lip of *P. chaparensis* is 2/3 as long as the synsepal which is very large in comparison to the lip of *P. gabaldonii* which is less than half as long as the synsepal.

