

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

Plant: small, epiphytic, caespitose, roots very slender.

Ramicauls: very slender, erect to suberect, up to 5 cm long, with a thin, tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

Leaf: suberect to spreading, thinly coriaceous, ovate, acute, up to 3.2 cm long, up to 1 cm wide, the base sessile, rounded to subcordate.

Inflorescence: pendent, very flexible, 2 to 3 flowered raceme, up to 3 cm long including the peduncle, borne from a 30 mm long spathaceous bract at the base of the leaf; floral bracts infundibular, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 10 mm long; ovary 1 mm long, flowers resupinate.

Labellum (Lip): white, triangular, 3-lobed, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, with a small glenion at the base, the basal lobes erect, rounded, flanking the column, the dorsal surface glabrous, convex at the base, acutely reflexed just below the middle, slightly convex at the apex, the apical lobe acute.

Sepal: white, 3-veined, 11 mm long, 4 mm wide at the base, concave at base, very narrowly ovate, long attenuated, acute.

Synsepal: white, 3-veined, 11 mm long, 4 mm wide at the base, concave at base, very narrowly ovate, long attenuated, acute.

Petals: white suffused with pink, minutely ciliate, 3-veined, 9 mm long, 2.5 mm wide at the base, very narrowly ovate, long attenuated, acute.

Column: semiterete, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide, anther ventral, stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *lacrima*, “teardrop”, referring to the small, teardrop-shaped flower buds.

COLOMBIA: Without collection data. Obtained from Orquideas del Valle by Andy’s Orchids, Encinitas, California, as *Pleurothallis quadricaudata*. Purchased from Andy’s Orchids by the author in 2019. Flowered in cultivation by the author in 2019. K. W. Holcomb (Holotype: GEO 18024)

Distribution: Due to the lack of collection data, nothing is known about the exact distribution of this species. The holotype was acquired from an orchid nursery in Colombia. Therefore, it is assumed this species was found in Colombia. To date, no observations of this species have been recorded on flickr or iNaturalist.

Morphological Comparison: Schlechter published the protologue for *P. quadricaudata* in 1920 based on a flower with no lip. In 1998, Luer published a neotype using a species with uncinately basal lobes. Luer also published two other very similar species in 1998: *P. tetrachaeta* and *P. tipulooides*. These species are characterized by having a single flower with long-attenuated sepals and petals, as well as, a triangular lip. *Pleurothallis lacrima* is superficially similar to all three species. However, the flowers of *P. lacrima* are significantly smaller than the other three species, 2.2 cm in *P. lacrima* vs. 4.6 cm in *P. quadricaudata*, 5 cm in *P. tetrachaeta*, and 5.6 cm in *P. tipulooides*. All three of those species produce a single flower that is held above the leaf. However, *P. lacrima* produces multiple, smaller flowers on a single, pendent inflorescence that hangs over the side of the leaf.

Diagnosis: *Pleurothallis lacrima* can easily be distinguished by its smaller flowers, which are produced 2 to 3 at a time on a raceme that hangs over the edge of the leaf.



Fig. 1. *Pleurothallis lacrima*
Photos taken of the same plant used to prepare the holotype material.

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Fig 2. *Pleurothallis lacrima* plant habit.
Photo taken of plants grown by the author, including the plant used to prepare the holotype material.

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Fig 3. *Pleurothallis lacrima* flower detail.
Photo taken of plants grown by the author, including the plant used to prepare the holotype material.

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