

Platystele colombiana

S. VIEIRA-URIBE & KARREMANS, SP. NOV.

Type: Colombia, Antioquia: Municipality of Carmen de Viboral, Vereda Santo Domingo, 2170 m. 13 October 2012. S. Vieira & E. Dominguez 0023 (holotype: JAUM; LCDP voucher).

Platystele colombiana is most similar to *P. caudatisepala*, *P. posadarum* and *P. baqueroi* but can be easily distinguished by the completely glandular-hirsute tepals and the very narrowly linear to acuminate petals that are about a third the width of the sepals, but similar in length.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose, up to about 2 cm tall excluding the inflorescence, *roots* slender. *Ramicauls* slender, ca. 3.0–3.5 mm long, enclosed by 2–3 thin imbricating sheaths. *Leaf* green, erect, coriaceous, oblanceolate, 10–15 mm long including the petiole, 2.6–3.8 mm wide, emarginate and mucronate at the apex, narrowing into a slender petiole ca. 3–4 mm long. *Inflorescence* a loose, suberect, successively many flowered raceme much longer than the leaves, at least up to 35 mm long including the green filiform peduncle up to 20 mm long, arising laterally from the ramicaul; *floral bracts* 1.5 mm long; *pedicels* green, persistent, up to 3.2 mm long; *ovary* green, suffused with purple, glabrous, 0.9 mm long; *sepals* translucent, single veined, glandular-hirsute on the margins and adaxial surface, narrowly ovate, acute, long-caudate; *dorsal sepal* saffron, 14.4 × 2.6 mm; *lateral sepals* burgundy, oblique, 13.2 × 2.5 mm, free to the base; *petals* translucent, saffron, single veined, hirsute on the margins and adaxial surface, narrowly linear to acuminate, 11.8 × 1.0 mm; *lip* burgundy, fleshy, cellular-glandular, obovate, acuminate, above the middle with two conspicuously revolute, fleshy lateral lobes, apically with a hirsute, erect, conical lobe; the base with a small glenion, 2.6 × 1.2 mm; *column* very short, cucullate, 0.6 × 0.9 mm, the stigma bilobed; *pollinia* two, yellow, obovate to orbicular; *anther cap* yellow, cucullate, pentagonal.

The relatively large flowers with long-caudate sepals of *Platystele colombiana* are somewhat reminiscent of *P. caudatisepala* (C. Schweinf.) Garay, *P. posadarum* Luer & R. Escobar and *P. baqueroi*

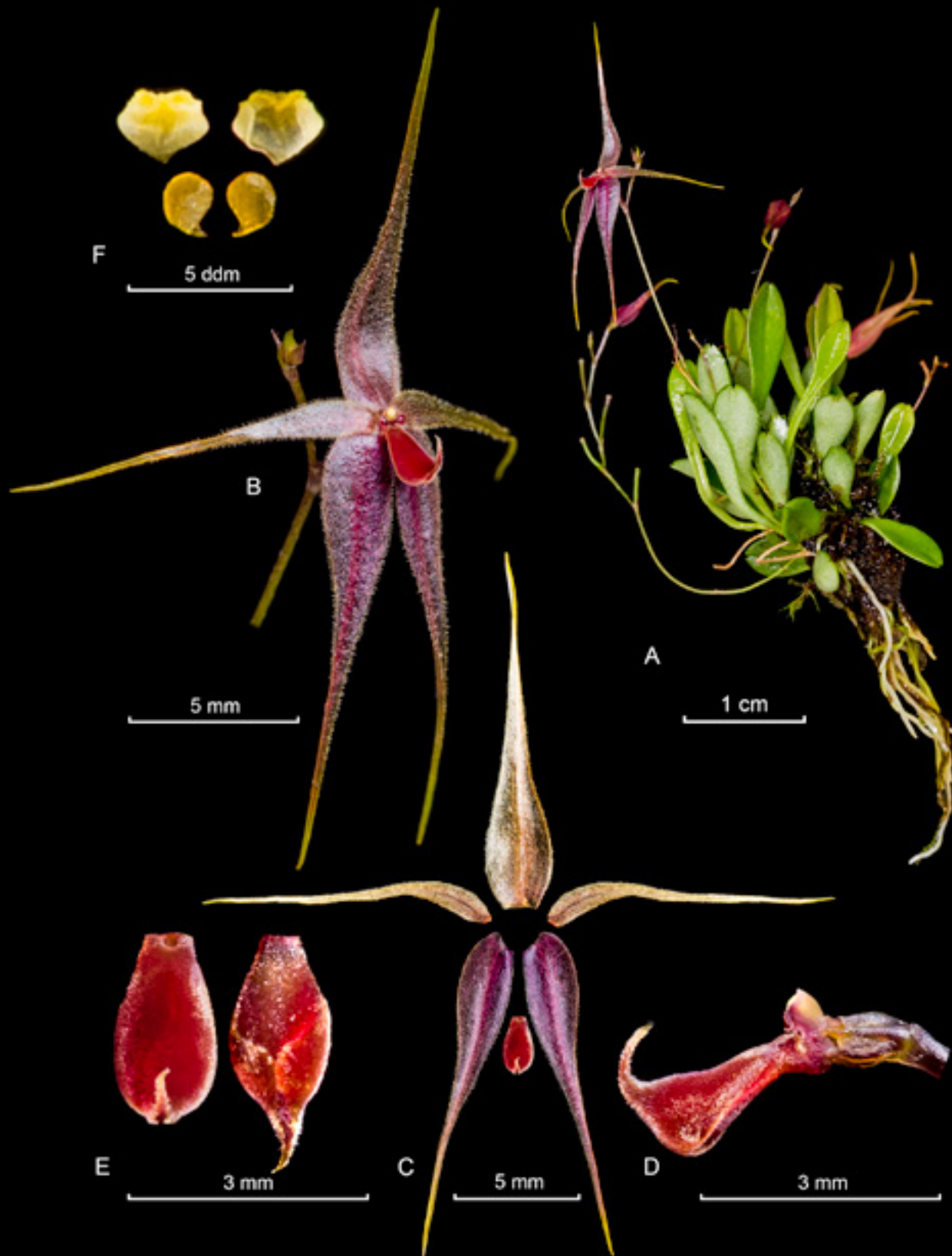
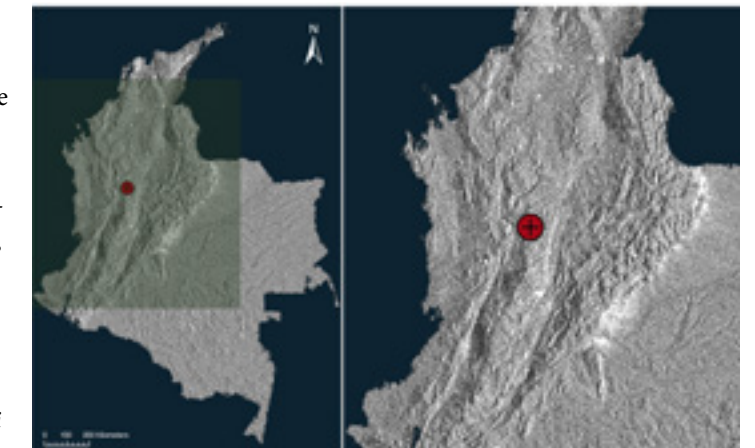
L. Jost & Iturralde. The new species is easily distinguished from those by the completely glandular-hirsute tepals, the very narrowly linear to acuminate petals that are about a third the width of the sepals, but almost the same in length (vs. tepals glabrous [only marginally hirsute in *P. baqueroi*], petals broader, at least half the width of the sepals, and less than half the length). *Platystele speckmaieri* Luer & Sijm is also superficially similar with its long-attenuate tepals, with sepals and petals similar in length. However, its flowers are glabrous, tepals are very narrowly caudate and the lip is broad below the middle and contracted apically.

Etymology: From Colombia, country where this species was found.

Platystele colombiana has been found only on two nearby localities in southeast Antioquia, on the slopes of Santo Domingo river canyon growing epiphytically in shady and humid places inside the forest, together with other species of *Platystele*, *Stelis* and *Lepanthes*.

References:

Luer, CA. 1990. Pleurothallidinarum VII. Systematics of *Platystele*. *Monographs in Systematic Botany from the Missouri Botanical Garden* 38: 1-135.



LCDP: *Platystele colombiana* S. Vieira-Uribe & Karremans. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Ovary, column and lip, side view. E. Lip, dorsal and ventral view. F. Anther cap and pollinarium.

