

Pleurothallis compressa

LUER

LINDLEYANA 11(2): 75. 1996

Synonyms: *Acronia compressa* (Luer) Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 103: 112. 2005.
Zosterophyllanthos compressus (Luer) Szlach. & Kulak, Richardiana 6(4): 188. 2006, as *Z. compressa*.

Type: Costa Rica. Cartago: Turrialba, without further collection data, flowered in cultivation at the Lankester Botanical Garden, Cartago, 7 March 1995, C. Luer 17380 (holotype, CR; isotype, MO).

Illustrated specimen: Costa Rica. Cartago: Cartago, San Francisco, Muñeco, Finca Loma Verde and Jilguero, road to Alto Belén, between Río Sombrero and Quebrada Patarrá, 1542 m. 22 Jul 2010. D. Bogarín 7839, M. Fernández, R. Trejos & C. Smith (JBL-spirit; LCDP voucher).

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, subpendent, to 30 cm tall. **Roots** slender, flexuous, 1–2 mm in diameter. **Ramicauls** terete becoming ancipitous at apex, slender, 14–30 cm long, 2–5 mm in diameter, yellowish green, provided with a tubular, truncate sheath to 2 cm long at the base, and a truncate sheath below the middle, to 6 cm long, the bracts glumaceous, pale green, becoming dry-papyraceous with age. **Leaf** reclined toward the pendent-curved ramicaul, thinly coriaceous, flexible, sessile, narrowly lanceolate-ovate, acuminate, 11–18 × 4–6 cm, deeply cordate at the base, the basal lobes not overlapping. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, borne pendent from a suberect, spathaceous, diagonally truncate bract 10 mm long, dry-papyraceous; peduncle terete, facing down, to 15 mm long. **Pedicle** terete, to 7 mm long. **Ovary** subclavate, curved rounded in section, reddish brown, 5–6 mm long. **Flowers** non-resupinate, the sepals reddish brown, the petal light ocher-brown, the lip dull orange, the column white. **Dorsal sepal** ovate, acute, 6 × 4 mm, 3-veined. **Lateral sepals** connate into a subrounded, apically deeply excised synsepal, 6 × 5 mm, the apices free for 2 mm, acute, abruptly apiculate, each half 2-veined. **Petals** narrowly triangular-falcate, acuminate, 1 × 1 mm, 1-veined. **Lip** hinged to the column foot, broadly triangular-rheniform, basally truncate with rounded angles, broadly obtuse, apiculate, sparsely verrucose, 2 × 3 mm, strongly conduplicate at the base, the margins slightly reflexed; glenion raised on a cushion-like callus between the margins of the hypochile, less than 1 mm long. **Column** short,

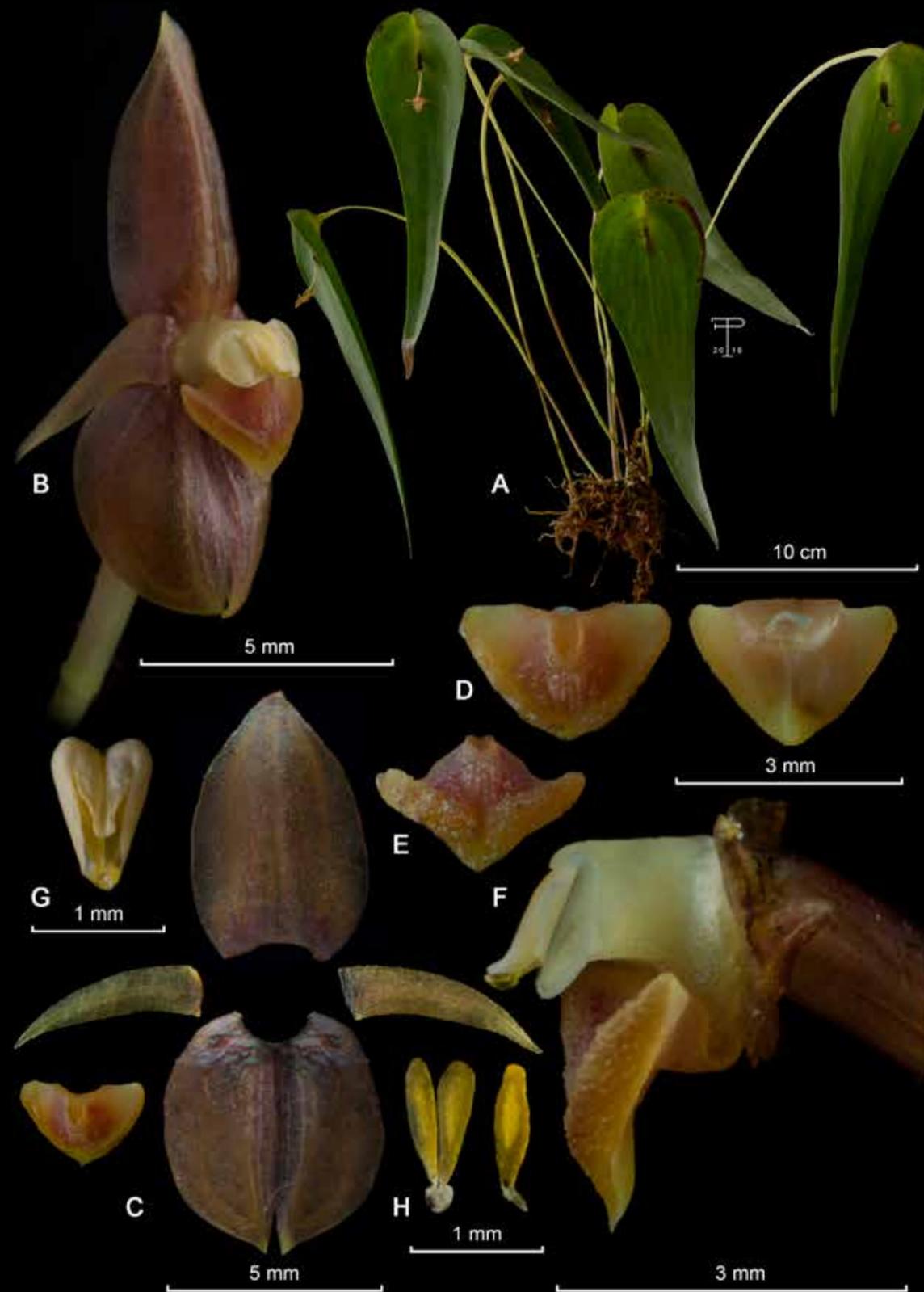
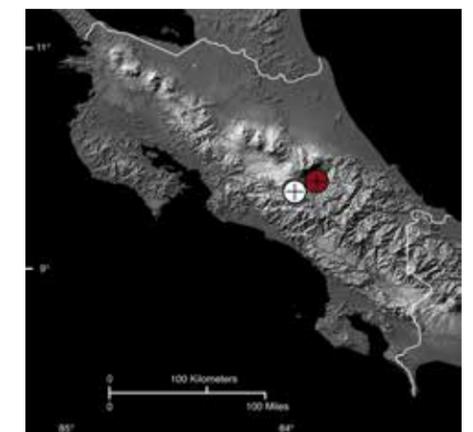
transversely subrectangular, dorsiventrally complanate, ca. 2 × 2 mm, apically diagonally truncate seen from the side, the anther apical, bent, the stigma apical, bilobed. **Anther cap** cucullate, narrowly ovate-triangular, cordate, 2-celled. **Pollinia** two, narrowly oblong-pyriform, attached to a peltate-subrounded viscidium through two short, cylindrical caudicles.

Etymology: from the Latin *compressus*, “compressed, flattened”, in reference to the laterally compressed ramicaul.

The curved, ancipitous ramicauls and pendent, narrowly lanceolate-ovate, acuminate leaves deeply cordate at the base, and the small brown flower borne pendently beneath the axial surface of the leaf, completely reflexed (or laterally “compressed”) easily distinguish *P. compressa* from any other species in the genus.

References:

- Luer, C. A. 1996. New species in the Pleurothallidinae from Costa Rica. *Lindleyana* 11: 54–89.
- Luer, C. A. 2005. Icones Pleurothallidarum XXVI. Systematics of *Acronia*, section *Macrophyllae-Fasciculatae*. *Monographs in Systematic Botany from the Missouri Botanical Garden* 103: 57–274.



LCDP: *Pleurothallis compressa* Luer. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Perianth. D. Lip, adaxial and abaxial views. E. Lip, frontal view. F. Ovary, column and lip, lateral view. G. Anther cap. H. Pollinarium, two views.

