

Pleurothallis fantastica

AMES

BOT. MUS. LEAFL. 4: 41. 1936

Synonyms: *Acronia fantastica* (Ames) Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 103: 134. 2005.

Type: Costa Rica: San José: vicinity of El General, epiphyte on trees by a river, 830 m, Jan. 1936, A.F. Skutch 2391 (holotype, AMES; isotype, AMES).

Illustrated specimen: Costa Rica. Puntarenas: Coto Brus, San Vito, Estación Biológica Las Cruces, Reserva Biológica, Río Java, Sendero Ridge, 1340 m. 6 Oct 2018. M. Blanco 5087, N. Jiménez, O. Alvarado, M. Cedeño, K. Gil & M.J. Mata (JBL-spirit; LCDP voucher).

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, arching to pendent, up to 37 cm tall. **Roots** slender, flexuous, ca. 1 mm in diameter. **Ramicauls** slender, 10–23 cm long, 1–2 mm in diameter, terete at the base, becoming slightly ancipitous distally, pale green, with two basal, short, tubular, obtuse sheaths, and another tubular, cylindrical, tightly adpressed sheath below the middle, the lower ones 8–14 mm long, the upper to 40 mm long, the sheaths dry-papyraceous, brown. **Leaf** borne at the apex of the ramicaul, pendent, rigidly coriaceous, sessile, narrowly ovate, acute, tapering to a subacuminate, mucronate apex, concave at the base, green, matte, 10–14 cm long, 1.7–2.2 cm wide, the basal lobes suberect, decurrent on the ramicaul for about 15 mm. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of solitary flowers, produced in succession from a prostrate, rectangular, obliquely truncate, glumaceous, green, spathaceous bract emerging above the base of the leaf 5–7 mm long, becoming brown, dry-papyraceous when mature and eventually fugacious; the peduncle terete, mostly adanate to the leaf, terete, to 2 cm long. **Pedicel** terete, green, 5–6 mm long. **Ovary** terete, greenish yellow, the mid-lobe and the disc of the lip reddish brown. **Dorsal sepal** erect, elliptic, subacute, the margins reflexed, 6–7 × 4 mm, 5-veined. **Lateral sepals** connate into a broadly elliptic, obtuse, minutely emarginate synsepal, the margins reflexed, 5 × 4 mm, each lateral sepal 4-veined. **Petals** broadly asymmetrically lanceolate, subfalcate, acute, glandulose, the margins cellular 5–6 × 3 mm, 3-veined. **Lip** fleshy, adnate to the base of the column, transversely 3-lobed, 3 × 4 mm when spread, the lateral lobes transversely elliptic-rheniform, obliquely erect, minutely glandulose, the midlobe elliptic-subquadrate, bilobu-

late-retuse, distinctly glandulose, with a minute abaxial apiculum, ca. 1 × 1 mm, the disc with a low, bilobed callus. **Column** terete, stout, distinctly dilated distally, minutely glandulose, ca. 3 × 2 mm, the anther apical, incumbent, the stigma apical, bilobed. **Anther cap** cucullate, ovate, subcordate, truncate, two-celled. **Pollinia** two, narrowly ovoid, attached to an elliptic viscidium.

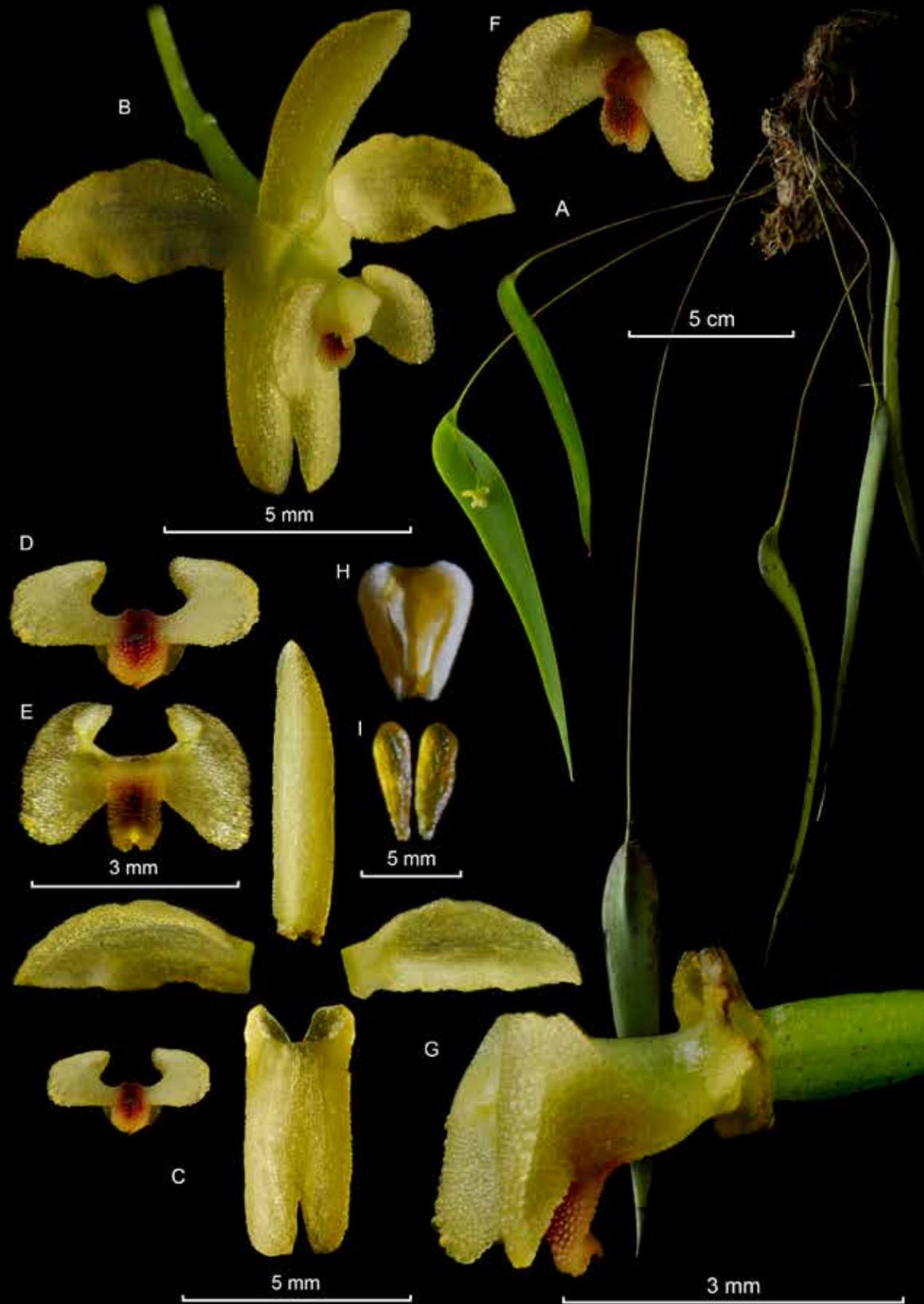
Etymology: From the Latin *fantasticus*, “imaginary”, but also “wonderful, marvelous”, in allusion to the odd flowers in this species.

The long, narrow, pendent leaves, born on a distally ancipitous ramicaul, which are cuneate (not cordate) at the base, and the flower with a distinctly three-lobed lip, the lateral lobes broad, elliptic, spread out, and the midlobe small, excised, easily distinguish *Pleurothallis fantastica* both vegetatively and florally from any other species in the genus.

References:

Ames, O. 1936. A new *Pleurothallis* from Costa Rica. *Botanical Museum Leaflets, Harvard University* 4: 41–46.

Luer, C. A. 1985. Eine neue *Pleurothallis*-Art aus Costa Rica: *Pleurothallis horichii*. *Die Orchidee* 36: 23–25.



LCDP: *Pleurothallis fantastica* Ames. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Perianth. D. Lip, spread, adaxial view. E. Lip, spread, abaxial view. F. Lip, three quarters view. G. Ovary, column and lip, lateral view. H. Anther cap. I. Pollinia.

