

Pleurothallis navisepala

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Type: Costa Rica. Alajuela: San Ramón, Ángeles, Balsa, road between San Ramón and La Fortuna de San Carlos, 1150 m. 29 May 2013. F. Pupulin 8435, D. Bogarín, M. Díaz, & M. Fernández (holotype, JBL-spirit).

Illustrated specimen: Costa Rica. Alajuela: Ángeles, Reserva Forestal de San Ramón [Reserva Biológica A. M. Brenes], 800–1000 m. 30 Dec 1991. M. Freiberg s.n. (JBL-spirit; LCDP voucher).

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, erect to suberect, to about 20 cm tall. *Roots* slender, flexuous, ca. 1 mm in diameter. *Ramicauls* terete, slender, 11–17 cm long, 2–3 mm in diameter, yellowish green, provided with two tubular, short, obtuse sheaths to 15 mm long at the base, and a longer, tubular, tightly adpressed, subobtuse to truncate sheath below the middle, to 3 cm long, the bracts glumaceous, pale green when young, becoming brown, dry-papyraceous with age. *Leaf* borne horizontally at the apex of the ramicaul, becoming curved-subpendent with age, thinly coriaceous, flexible, sessile, ovate, narrowly acute to acuminate, 5–9 × 3–5 cm, deeply cordate at the base, grass-green, matte. *Inflorescence* a solitary flower, usually 2–4 produced simultaneously, from a reclining spathaceous bract to 10 mm long, brown, dry-papyraceous when mature, eventually dissolving with age. *Pedicle* terete, green, 5–7 mm long. *Ovary* terete-subclavate, curved, rounded in section, 5–7 mm long. *Flowers* not completely spreading, with temporal activity, short-lived (to 5 days), uniformly bright yellow. *Dorsal sepal* erect, elliptic-ovate, obtuse, minutely acute, 7–12 × 6–8 mm, the margins microscopically glandulose, 7–9 veined. *Lateral sepals* connate into a broadly ovate, obtuse, deeply cymbiform synsepal, the margins microscopically glandulose, 8–10 × 8–10 mm when spread, 9–11 veined. *Petals* narrowly triangular, asymmetrical-subsygmoid, acuminate, 7 × 2 mm, subcorrect, apically incurved, 3-veined. *Lip* unguiculate, hinged to the column foot, strongly geniculate, peltate, basally truncate with rounded-obtuse angles, acute, apiculate, infolded, 6 × 4 mm, strongly conduplicate at the base, the apical margins thickened, inrolled, finely pubescent abaxially; glenion recessed between the thickened margins of the hypochile, ca. 1 mm long. *Column* short, transversely subrectangular, dorsiventrally complanate, ca. 1 × 2–3 mm, the anther apical, bent, the stigma apical, bilobed. *Anther cap* triangu-

lar-cordate, acute, bilobed at the base, 2-celled. *Pollinia* 2, narrowly oblong-pyriform, 1 mm long, attached to an elliptic-peltate viscidium through a short, cylindrical caudicle.

Etymology: From the Latin *navis*, “ship”, and *sepala*, “sepals”, in reference to the boat-shaped synsepal.

Pleurothallis navisepala is similar to *P. cardiothallis*, but usually produces two to four flowers at once (*vs.* flowers produced singly), bearing comparatively small flowers (*vs.* large) that do not spread out completely (*vs.* reflexed at maturity), provided with a deeply concave-navicular synsepal and porrect petals. The lip of *P. navisepala* is similar in size to that of *P. cardiothallis*, but the synsepal is much smaller, so that the ratio lip:synsepal is notably greater in the former. As in other species of the *P. cardiothallis* complex, *P. navisepala* exhibits two color morphs, one with purple flowers on a greenish white background and another with solid, bright yellow flower, which frequently coexist in the same populations.

References:

Pupulin, F., M. Díaz-Morales, J. Aguilar & M. Fernández. 2017. *Pleurothallis*. Two new species of *Pleurothallis* (Orchidaceae: Pleurothallidinae) allied to *P. cardiothallis*, with a note on flower activity. *Lankesteriana* 17(2): 329–356.



LCDP: *Pleurothallis navisepala* Pupulin, J. Aguilar & M. Díaz. **A.** Habit. **B.** Flower. **C.** Perianth (the lip in ventral, dorsal, lateral, and three quarters views). **D.** Ovary, column and lip, lateral view. **E.** Anther cap. **F–G.** Pollinarium, three views.

