

# *Pleurothallis oncoglossa*

LUER

LINDLEYANA II: 86. 1996

**Synonyms:** *Acronia oncoglossa* (Luer) Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 103: 166. 2005.  
*Zosterophyllanthos oncoglossus* (Luer) Szlach. & Kulak, Richardiana 6(4): 191. 2006.

**Type:** Costa Rica. Without collection data, collected by Leon Gliesenstein, flowered in cultivation by P. & A. Jesup in Bristol, CT, 10 Dec 1988, C. Luer 13833 (holotype, MO).

**Illustrated specimen:** Costa Rica. Cartago: Jiménez, Pejibaye, Tucurrique, Bajos del Humo, between the rivers Humo and Vueltas, east side of Cerros Duán, 1396 m. 24 November 2008. D. Bogarín 5686, R.L. Dressler, R. Gómez & R. Trejos (JBL; LCDP voucher).

**Plant** epiphytic, caespitose, erect, to 38 cm tall. **Roots** slender, flexuous, ca. 1 mm in diameter. **Ramicauls** terete, slender, 12–31 cm long, 1–3 mm in diameter, yellowish green, provided with a tubular, short, truncate sheath, 1.0–2.5 cm long at the base, and a longer, tubular, tightly adpressed, truncate sheath below the middle, to 5–11 cm long, the bracts brown, dry-papyraceous. **Leaf** borne suberect at the apex of the ramicaul, becoming subpendent with age, thinly coriaceous, flexible, sessile, ovate, acuminate, 10.5–14.5 × 4.5–5.5 cm, deeply cordate at the base, matte green. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, from a prostrate spathaceous bract 1–2 cm long, brown, dry-papyraceous when mature, eventually dissolving with age. **Pedicel** terete, pale green, ca. 12 mm long. **Ovary** subclavate, terete, ca. 11.5 mm long. **Flowers** dark red suffused with pale yellow on the base of the petals, sepals and lip. **Dorsal sepal** broadly ovate, obtuse, 15–17 × 12–15 mm, 9-veined. **Lateral sepals** connate into a broadly ovate, obtuse synsepal, 14–16 × 14–16 mm, 9–10 veined. **Petals** narrowly ovate-falcate, acute, 11–12 × 3–4 mm, 3-veined. **Lip** unguiculate, hinged to the column foot, geniculate, triangular, basally truncate with rounded angles, acute, 7–8 × 4–5 mm, the apex thickened into a conical callus bent into a hook; glenion recessed in the middle of the hypochile, slender, ca. 1 mm long. **Column** short, transversely subrectangular, dorsiventrally complanate, ca. 3 × 4 mm, the anther apical, bent, the stigma apical, bilobed. **Anther cap** cordate, acute, bilobed at the base, bent up at the apex, 2-celled. **Pollinia** 2, narrowly oblong-pyriform, bent

up at the apex, attached to an elliptic viscidium through short, cylindrical caudicula.

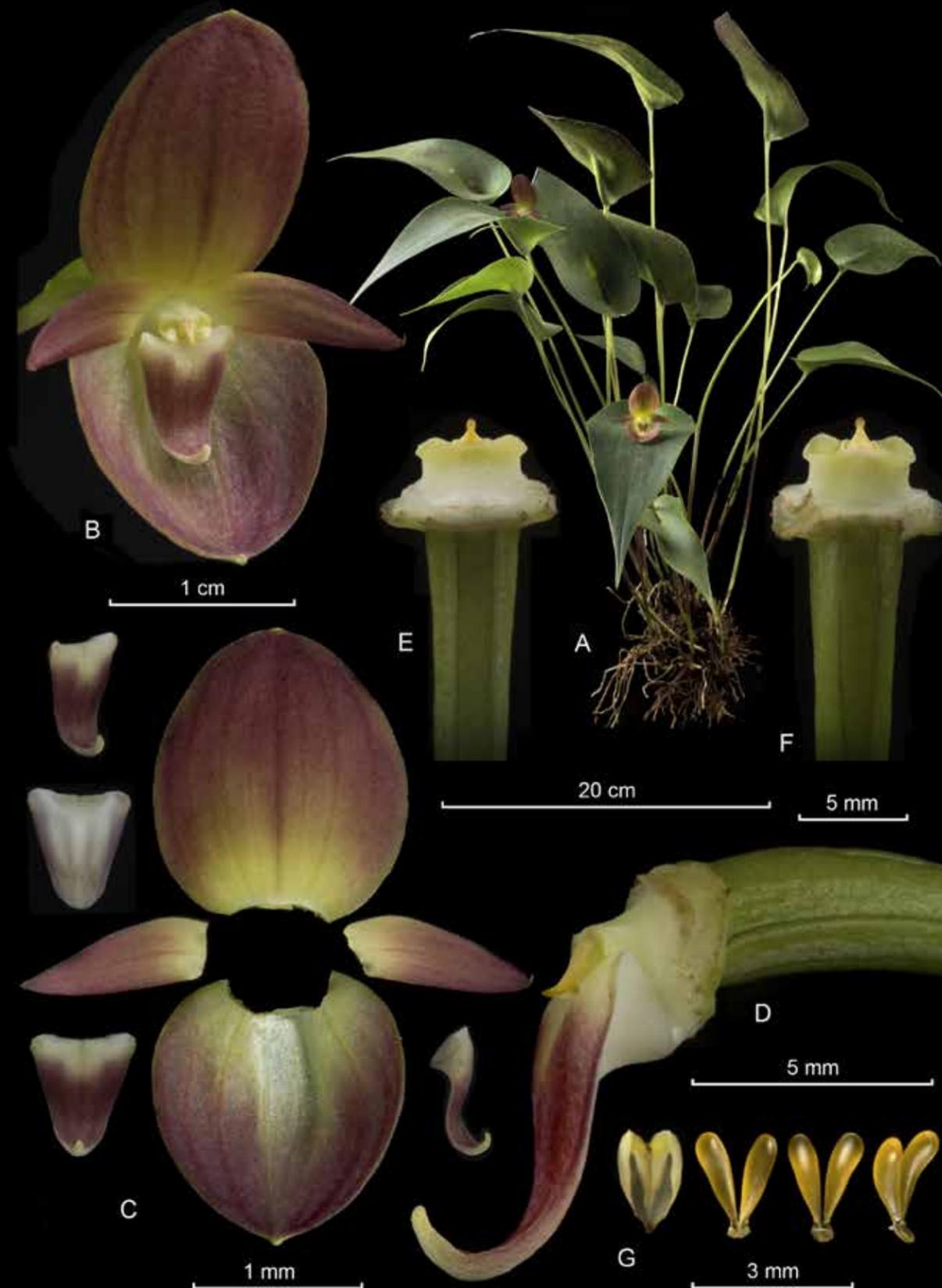
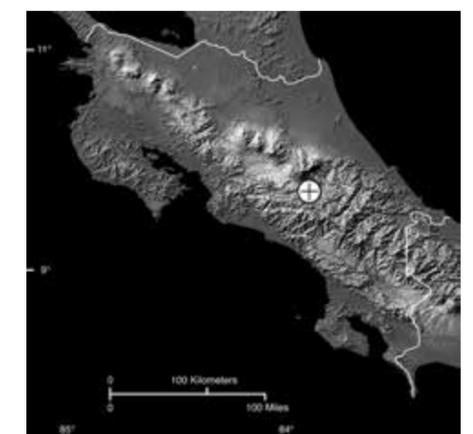
**Etymology:** From the Greek words *ὄγκος* (*ónkos*), “topknot on the masks of classic tragedy”, and *γλῶσσα* (*glóssa*), “tongue”, in reference to the callous projection at the apex of the lip.

*Pleurothallis oncoglossa* is similar to *P. cardiothallis*, from which it differs in the distinctly triangular lip with the apex thickened into a conical callus, bent up as a hook (vs. peltate). *Pleurothallis oncoglossa* is also similar to *P. scotinantha*, but in the latter the lip is not hooked, the perianth is solid dark purple instead of dark red on a pale yellow background, and the plants are bigger overall.

**References:**

Luer, C. A. 1996. New species in the Pleurothallidinae (Orchidaceae) from Costa Rica. *Lindleyana* 11: 54–113.

Szlachetko, D. L. & Kulak, M. Nouvelles combinaisons dans le genre *Zosterophyllanthos* Szlachetko & Margónska (Orchidaceae, Pleurothallidinae). *Richardiana* 6: 183–195.



**LCDP:** *Pleurothallis oncoglossa* Luer. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Perianth (four views of the lip). D. Column and lip, lateral view. E, F. Column, abaxial and adaxial views. G. Anther cap and pollinarium.

