

Pleurothallis rectipetala

AMES & C.SCHWEINF.
SCHED. ORCH. 8: 32. 1925

Synonyms: *Acronia rectipetala* (Ames & C.Schweinf.) Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 103: 180. 2005.
Zosterophyllanthos rectipetalus (Ames & C.Schweinf.) Szlach. & Kulak, Richardiana 6: 192. 2006.

Type: Costa Rica. [Cartago:] Cachi, cultivated at Cartago and flowered in Jun 1924, C. H. Lankester 915 (holotype, AMES).

Illustrated specimen: Costa Rica. Cartago: Jiménez, Pejibaye, Tucurrique, Bajos del Humo, between Humo and Vueltas rivers, eastern slope of Cerros Duán, 1396 m. 24 Nov 2008. D. Bogarin 5743, R.L. Dressler, R. Gómez & R. Trejos (JBL; LCDP voucher).

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, erect, up to 30 cm tall. **Roots** slender, flexuous, ca. 1 mm in diameter. **Ramicauls** terete, slender, 18–29 cm long, 1–2 mm in diameter, pale green, with two basal, tubular, obtuse sheaths, 1–2 cm long, and a longer, sub-basal, tubular, obtuse, tight sheath 6–7 cm long, the sheaths dry-papyraceous, brown. **Leaf** borne at the apex of the ramicaul, horizontal to sub-reclinate toward the stem, thinly coriaceous, flexible, sessile, ovate, acute, shortly subacuminate, 11–14 × 4–7 cm, deeply cordate at the base, the basal lobes not overlapping, the margins incurved, green, matte. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, born from an erect, oblanceolate, rounded to subtruncate, spathaceous bract to 15 mm long, glumaceous, green, becoming brown, dry-papyraceous when mature. **Pedice**l terete, green, to ca. 15 cm long, completely hidden within the spathe. **Ovary** terete, curved, 5 mm long. **Flowers** spreading-reflexed, the sepals dull brownish purple, the dorsal sepal fading greenish yellow towards the margins, the petals purple tinged with yellow apically, the lip purple, the column white. **Dorsal sepal** erect, broadly elliptic-lanceolate, obtuse, 6–7 × 4 mm, the margins reflexed, five-veined. **Lateral sepals** connate into an ovate, subobtuse, apically subexcise synsepal, the margins reflexed, 12 × 8 mm, each half of the synsepal four-veined. **Petals** linear-lanceolate to linear-oblong, acute, minutely apiculate, denticulate in the distal third, reflexed at maturity, 5–6 × 2 mm, single-veined. **Lip** unguiculate, hinged to the column foot, thick and fleshy, ovate-peltate, basally truncate with obtuse angles, obtuse-rounded, the sides smooth, 3 × 2 mm, densely papillose throughout, the

papillae coarser at the base; glenion raised on a thick, velutine callus on the labellar base, less than 1 mm long. **Column** short, stout, transversely subrectangular, dorsiventrally complanate, with a short foot, ca. 2 × 2 mm, the anther apical, incumbent, the stigma apical, bilobed. **Anther cap** cucullate, ovate, subcordate, subtruncate, two-celled. **Pollinia** two, narrowly ovate, apically attenuate, attached to an elliptical viscidium.

Etymology: From the Latin *rectus*, “straight”, in reference to the shape of the petals.

Pleurothallis rectipetala can be distinguished by the combination of the comparatively large, cordate leaves, the erect spathe with the flowers barely exerted from it, the dull purple flowers with linear-oblong, reflexed petals and the very thick, ovate-peltate lip. It is most similar to *P. radula*, which has yellow flowers and an irregularly crestate lip, and to *P. luna-crescens*, which has a crescent-shaped flower with much longer, narrower petals.

References:

Ames, O. & C. Schweinfurth. 1925. New or noteworthy species of orchids from the American tropics. *Schedulae Orchidiana* 8: 1–91.



LCDP: *Pleurothallis rectipetala* Ames & C.Schweinf. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Perianth. D. Lip, adaxial view. E. Lip, three quarters view. F. Ovary, column and lip, lateral view. G. Column, ventral and lateral views. H. Pollinarium, three views. I. Anther cap.

