

Pleurothallis scotinantha

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Type: Costa Rica. San José: Pérez Zeledón, Cajón, Montecarlo, 3.5 km northeast of Montecarlo, margins of Río Peña Blanquita, 1261 m. 28 Jul. 2009. *D. Bogarín 7355* & *F. Pupulin* (holotype, JBL; isotype, JBL; LCDP voucher).

Etymology: From the Greek words *σκοτεινός* (*skotinós*), “dark”, and *άνθος* (*ánthos*), “flower”, in reference to the solid, dark-purple flower of the species, uncommon in this group.

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, erect to suberect, to 50 cm tall. *Roots* slender, flexuous, 1–2 mm in diameter. *Ramicauls* terete, slender, 29–43 cm long, 2–4 mm in diameter, yellowish green, provided with a tubular, short, truncate sheath to 3–4 cm long at the base, and a longer, tubular, tightly adpressed, truncate sheath below the middle, to 4–6 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 subpendent with age, thinly coriaceous, flexible, sessile, ovate, acute to acuminate, 16–19 × 7–8 cm, deeply cordate, forming two slightly imbricate lobes at the base, grass-green, matte. *Inflorescence* a solitary flower, usually produced singly, rarely in pairs, from a reclined spatheaceous bract 10–15 mm long, brown, dry-papyraceous when mature, eventually dissolving with age. *Pedicle* terete, pale green, 22–26 mm long. *Ovary* clavate, rounded in section, 4–8 mm long. *Flowers* solid dark purple with pale yellow tips on sepals, petals and lip, opening and closing several times during anthesis, short-lived (usually 5, rarely to 6 days). *Dorsal sepal* broadly ovate, subacute, 14–18 × 11–19 mm, 9–11-veined. *Lateral sepals* connate into a broadly ovate-subrounded, subacute synsepal, 11–20 × 15–20 mm, 9–11-veined. *Petals* subfalcate, acute, 11–14 × 2–4 mm, 3–5-veined. *Lip* unguiculate, hinged to the column foot, triangular, basally truncate with rounded angles, acuminate, 6–7 × 4–5 mm, strongly conduplicate at the base, apex with the margin finely pubescent; glenion deeply recessed between the margins of the hypochile, ca. 1 mm long. *Column* short, transversely subrectangular, dorsiventrally complanate, ca. 1 × 4 mm, the anther apical, bent, the stigma apical, bilobed. *Anther cap* obtriangular, acute, bilobed at the base, 2-celled. *Pollinia* two, narrowly oblong-pyriform, attached to an elliptic viscidium through a short, cylindrical caudicle.

In outline, the lip of *P. scotinantha* is triangular, similar to that of *P. oncoglossa*, and as in *P. oncoglossa* the flower is fully spread in the late morning and early afternoon. The dark purple, blackish, glossy color of the flower, the triangular, flat, dark purple lip fading into a small white region towards the apex, whitish on the underside, are, however, useful characters to distinguish it from *P. oncoglossa*, which has light purple-red flowers on a greenish yellow background, the sepals fading yellow-green toward the base, and a characteristic, callose hook at the apex of the lip.

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: 329–356.



LCDP: *Pleurothallis scotinantha* Pupulin, M. Díaz & J. Aguilar. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Perianth. D. Lip, adaxial view. E. Column and lip, lateral view.

