

# *Pleurothallis tapantiensis*

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**Type:** Costa Rica. Cartago: Paraíso, Orosi, Tapantí, Tapantí National Park, Oropéndola trail, shores of Río Grande de Orosi, 1376 m. 11 December 2014. *D. Bogarín* 11273, *M. Fernández*, *L. Taylor* & *J. Sharma* (holotype, JBL; LCDP voucher).

*Plant* epiphytic, caespitose, erect to suberect, to 23 cm tall. *Roots* slender, flexuous, ca. 1 mm in diameter. *Ramicauls* terete, slender, 15–22 cm long, yellowish green, provided with two basal, tubular, obtuse sheaths 1.7–6.0 cm long, the bracts glumaceous, pale green with minute purple warts 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, acuminate, 7–12 × 4–6 cm, deeply cordate at the base, grass-green, matte. *Inflorescence* a solitary flower, from a reclined, rectangular, acute, spatheaceous bract to 2 cm long, brown, dry-papyraceous when mature, eventually dissolving with age. *Pedicel* terete, green, 8–12 mm long. *Ovary* terete-subclavate, curved, rounded in section, 3–5 mm long. *Flowers* spreading, becoming partially reflex with age, short-lived (to 5 days), opening and closing several times during anthesis, solid purple. *Dorsal sepal* erect, ovate, obtuse, 10–11 × 7–8 mm, 7–9-veined, the lateral margins reflexed. *Lateral sepals* connate into a broadly ovate, obtuse synsepal, 9–10 × 8–9 mm when spread, 9–11-veined, the margins reflexed at maturity. *Petals* narrowly triangular-subfalcate, acute, 6–7 × 1 mm, 3-veined, reflexed. *Lip* unguiculate, hinged to the column foot, peltate, basally truncate with rounded angles, obtuse, with the apex slightly infolded, 6–7 × 3.0–3.5 mm, conduplicate at the base, the apical margins thickened; glenion recessed between the thickened area between the 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* obtriangular, acute, bilobed at the base, 2-celled. *Pollinia* 2, narrowly oblong-pyriform, attached to an elliptic viscidium through a short, cylindrical caudiculae.

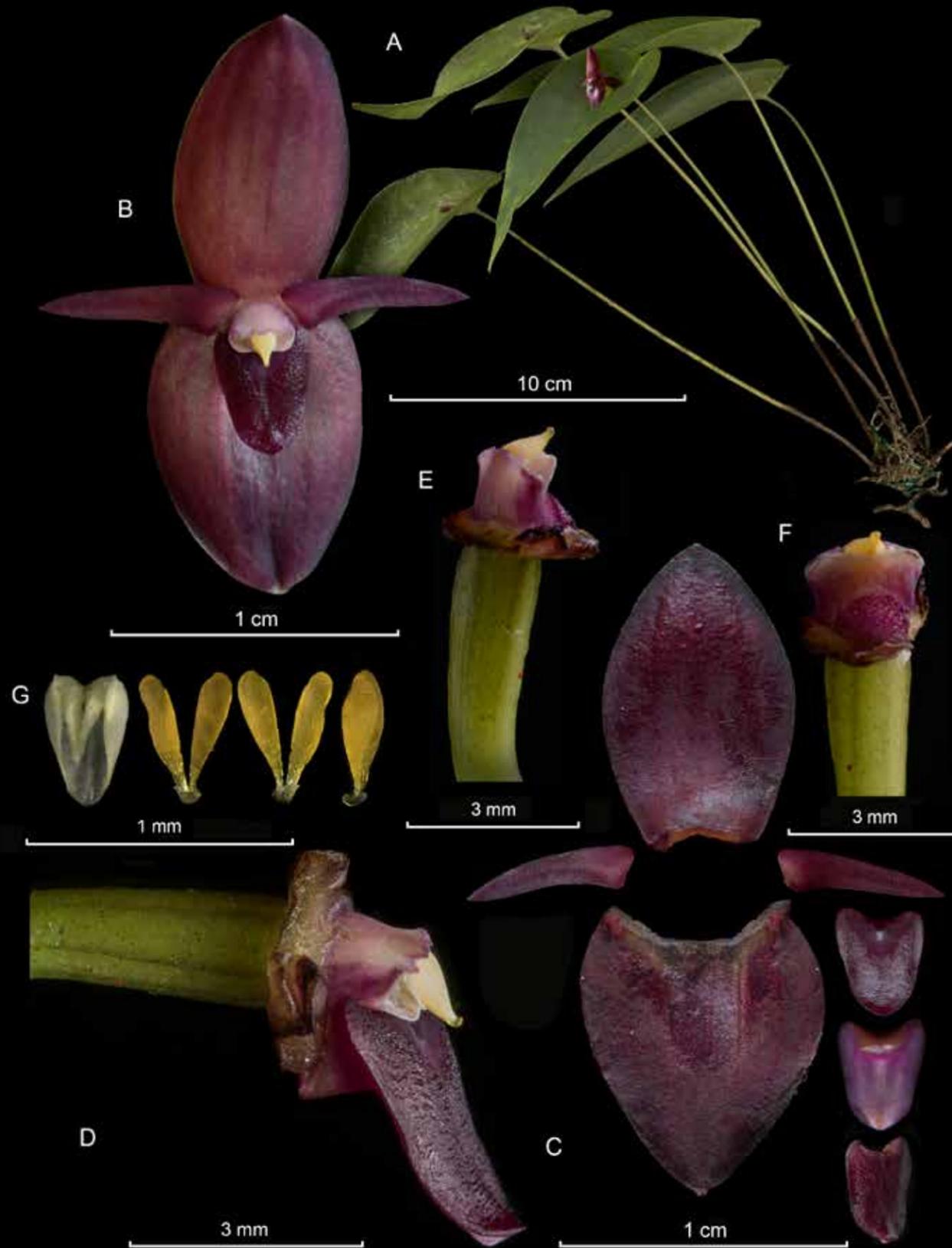
*Etymology:* Named after the Tapantí National Park, in the north-

ern region of the Cordillera de Talamanca where the species was originally found. In the indigenous Cabécar language, the word tapantí has several meanings, mostly related to water: “clear water”, “a zone of many waters”, “torrent from the heavens”.

Among the species of *Pleurothallis* close to *P. cardiothallis* provided with a peltate lip, *P. tapantiensis* may be easily recognized by the lip that is glabrous and uniformly purple underneath (vs. papillose, whitish), with the apical margins straight (vs. involute, forming a pseudoapicule), provided for all its length with thin, irregular, transverse grooves. As most other species in this group, the flowers of *P. tapantiensis* change in openness diurnally, opening early in the morning, and usually remaining fully spread until noon, when the petals incurve and the lateral sepals lose turgor and fold over each other. The process repeats for 4 to 5 days, after which the flower fades.

#### References:

Pridgeon, A. P. 2020. *Pleurothallis*. Pp. 850–909 in: F. Pupulin (ed.). *Vanishing Beauty. Native Costa Rican Orchids. Vol. 2: Lacaena–Pteroglossa*. Koeltz Botanical Books, Oberreifenberg.



LCDP: *Pleurothallis tapantiensis* Pupulin, M. Díaz & Pridgeon. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Perianth (three views of the lip). D. Column and lip, lateral view. E, F. Column in three quarters and abaxial views. G. Anther cap and pollinarium.

