

Pleurothallis mundiflorae K.W. Holcomb, sp. nov.

Plant small to medium, vigorous, floriferous, epiphytic, caespitose, roots very slender.

Ramicauls 8.75 to 15 cm long, very slender, erect, enclosed by a thin tubular sheath below the middle and another at the base.

Leaf 3.75 to 5.75 cm long, erect, coriaceous, ovate, subacute, the base sessile, subcordate.

Inflorescence a fascicle of long-pedunculate, solitary, non-resupinate flowers borne from a 5 to 9 mm long spathaceous bract at the base of the leaf, peduncle 4.25 cm long.

Labellum (Lip) 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, broadly triangular, trilobed, margins undulate, dorsal surface glabrous, yellow or white with heavy speckling in a diamond formation from the base to the apex, acutely deflexed at the middle, the basal lobes rounded, flanking the column, apex acute.

Dorsal Sepal 17 mm long, 4 mm wide, yellow or white, 3-veined, ovate, concave below the middle, acute.

Synsepal 14 mm long, 7 mm wide, yellow or white, 4-veined, ovate, concave below the middle, acute.

Petals 13 mm long, 3 mm wide, yellow or white speckled with red, 2-veined, ovate, oblique, minutely ciliate margins, acute.

Column 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, semiterete, the anther apical, stigma ventral.

Eponymy: Named in honor of Mundiflora Farm, Chiquintad, Ecuador.

ECUADOR and COLOMBIA: Without collection data. *K. W. Holcomb (Holotype: GEO 18302)*

Distribution: While the location of the holotype is unknown, *Pleurothallis mundiflorae* has been observed in situ. It was photographed by Marta Kolanowska on November 24, 2015 in Valle de Sibundoy, Colombia. (Fig. 2.)

Diagnosis: *Pleurothallis mundiflorae* is very similar to *Pleurothallis sobrina* (Luer 1996). Vegetatively, the plants are virtually indistinguishable. However, *P. mundiflorae* can be easily distinguished by its much larger flowers, 31 mm long compared to 13.5 mm long in *P. sobrina*. In addition, the lip of *P. mundiflorae* is broadly triangular with rounded basal lobes compared to the lip of *P. sobrina* which is narrowly triangular with uncinately basal lobes. *Pleurothallis mundiflorae* is also similar to the recently described *P. liripipia*. However, it can be differentiated by the smaller flowers, smaller plant habit, and the absence of the extended rostellum and steldia, which are present in the flowers of *P. liripipia*.



Fig. 1. *Pleurothallis mundiflorae*
Photos taken of the same plant used to prepare the holotype material.



Fig. 2. *Pleurothallis mundiflorae* photographed *in situ* Valle de Sibundoy, Colombia.
Photo Credit: Marta Kolanowska.

References

Luer, C. A. (1998). *Icones Pleurothallidarum XVII*: Systematics of subgen. *Pleurothallis* sect. *Abortivae*, sect. *Truncatae*, sect. *Pleurothallis*, subsect. *Acroniae*, subsect. *Pleurothallis*, subgen. *Dracontia*, subgen. *Uncifera*. Monographs in Systematic Botany from Missouri Botanical Garden, 72, 1-121.