

2. *Specklinia pfavii* (Rchb.f.) Pupulin & Karremans, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Pleurothallis pfavii* Reichenbach (1886: 555). Type: [COSTA RICA or PANAMA]. Chiriquí, *Pfau. s.n.* (holotype, W).

Heterotypic synonyms: *Masdevallia platyrachis* Rolfe (1888: 178–179). *Pleurothallis platyrachis* (Rolfe) Rolfe (1890: 136), *comb. inval.*; (Rolfe) Rolfe ex Hooker f. (1890: sub pl. 7129). *Kraenzlinella platyrachis* (Rolfe) Rolfe (1915: 326). TYPE: COSTA RICA: “The plant was imported from Costa Rica by Mr. Shuttleworth, and sent to Kew in 1884, in which year a scape was produced. It has now become fully established and is bearing several scapes, the first flower having recently expanded”, *E. Shuttleworth s.n.* (holotype, K).

Epiphytic, caespitose, erect herb to 17 cm tall. Roots fibrous, flexuous, glabrous, to 1.5 mm in diameter. Stem abbreviated, terete, to 1.5 cm long, monophyllous, completely concealed by 2 glumaceous, slightly loose, ancipitous, acute sheaths to 1.8 cm long, becoming brown-papyraceous with age. Leaf elliptic, 10.7–14.2×2.4–3.0 cm, minutely retuse, the midvein protruding abaxially into a small apicule, gradually tapering toward the base into a conduplicate petiole, the margins ancipitous, subcoriaceous. Inflorescence born laterally from the apex of the stem, without an annulus, an erect-subarching, congested, successively-flowered, distichous raceme to 35 cm long; the rachis strongly fractiflex, producing up to 30+ flowers; peduncle flattened, ancipitous, to 28 cm long, with 3–4 distant, tubular-amplexant, ancipitous, apically subuncinate, acute bracts, 6–7 mm long. Floral bracts infundibuliform, subuncinate laterally, ovate, abaxially ancipitous, subacuminate, 7×6 mm. Pedicel cylindrical, glabrous, to 12 mm long, persistent. Ovary subclavate, subtrigonal, to 5 mm long, green. Flowers with bright yellow sepals and lip, lip with longitudinal orange stripes, petals dark red, column yellow. Sepals fleshy, densely papillose on the inner surface with the exception of the hyaline basal third, margins revolute, strongly keeled abaxially along veins; dorsal sepal lanceolate, triveined, acute, the base hyaline, flushed with yellow along veins, the distal two-thirds densely papillose, 24×8 mm; lateral sepals narrowly elliptic-subfalcate, 3-veined, 23.0×3.5 mm, connate at the base for about 3 mm into a deeply concave mentum, membranaceous-hyaline at the base, then densely papillose, margins slightly revolute. Petals small, ligulate-subfalcate, rounded, porrect, univeined, 12×3 mm, with a rounded keel abaxially along the vein, the apex thickened, minutely papillose inside, the labellar margin provided with low papillae in the basal half. Lip lanceolate, articulate with the apex of column foot by a hyaline claw, strongly arched-convex in natural position, triveined, subtrullate when expanded, obtuse to subacute, with a small, rounded apicule, the distal half provided with 2 thin, high keels converging toward the apex but not reaching it, the clawed base thickened, subquadrate; entire lip 18×8 mm. Column arched, semiterete, provided with a foot, 6.5 mm long without the foot, with 2 broad, thin, membranaceous, rounded wings in the middle portion, the apex rounded, deeply cucullate, the clinandrium shallow, entire; column foot forward-projecting, stout, fleshy, 4 mm long. Anther cap ovate, deeply cucullate, strongly keeled in the middle, 2-celled. Pollinia 2, obovate-complanate, hooked at attenuate base. Fruit not seen.

**Other material examined:**—COSTA RICA. Pérez Zeledón: without any additional collection data, cultivated by Wubben in The Netherlands, flowered in cultivation at the Hortus Botanicus in Leiden, 1 Dec 2011, *Karremans 4825* (L-Spirit!; Fig. 6). Without collecting data, flowered in cultivation at Lankester Botanical Garden, *JBL-11086* (JBL-Spirit!, CR!; Fig. 5).

**Distribution:**—Endemic to the lowlands of southern Costa Rica and western Panama, on the Pacific watershed of the Talamanca-Chiriquí range, at around 500 m elevation (Figure 7).

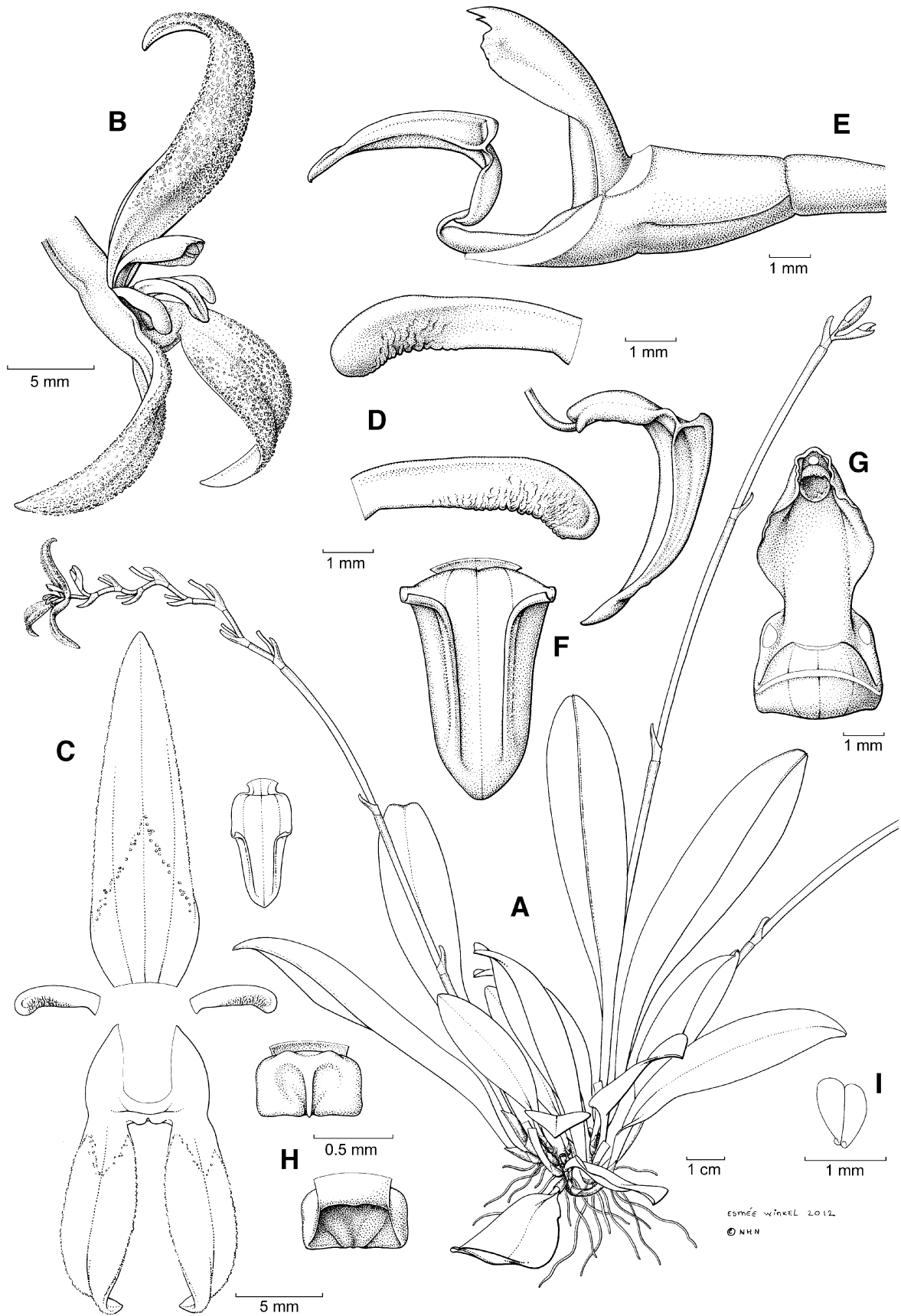


**FIGURE 5.** Comparison of flowers of species of the *Specklinia endotrachys* group. A. *Specklinia endotrachys* (Blanco 961). B. *Specklinia pfavii* (JBL-11086). C. *Specklinia remotiflora* (Bogarín 8181). D. *Specklinia spectabilis* (JBL-02641). All flowers shown in front, three-quarters side, and side views. Scale bar = 1 cm.

Reichenbach (1886b) described *Pleurothallis pfavii* on the basis of a living plant he received from Pfau, who collected it in “Chiriquí”. He precisely noted the colors of the perianth: “*Flores intense sulphurei pollicem longi. Tepalo pulcherrime cinnamomeo brunnea. Labellum flavum linea mediana rufa. Columna viridula*”. The exact locality of the original collection is unknown, and the region of Chiriquí (actually in Panama) was at the time shared by Panama and Costa Rica. The Swiss Rudolf Richard Pfau (?–1897) collected mostly in Costa Rica, where he eventually owned a nursery in San José. According to the protologue, *Pleurothallis pfavii* has falcate, obtuse petals provided with a thickened external margin and acute (“quasi sagittato”) lip (Reichenbach 1886b), a set of features that makes it unmistakable.

Originally described in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in August 1888, *Masdevallia platyrachis* was illustrated shortly after in the *Botanical Magazine* (Hooker 1890: sub pl. 7129) under the name of *Pleurothallis platyrachis*. The original description of *Masdevallia platyrachis* was based a plant cultivated at Kew and received from Shuttleworth of Charlesworth & Co., where it was supposedly introduced from Costa Rica. Edward Shuttleworth (1829-1909) collected orchids in Colombia, but he never went to Costa Rica, and no records remain of the collectors employed by the commercial nursery of Charlesworth in Central America during the last decades of nineteenth century. This leaves the exact type locality of *M. platyrachis* unresolved. Rolfe (1890) transferred it to *Pleurothallis* in his reconsideration of *Scaphosepalum*, but as he did not expressly associate the epithet with the genus *Pleurothallis*, the combination is invalid according to art 33.1 of the ICBN. A valid combination was published that same year, when *Pleurothallis platyrachis* was first illustrated (Hooker 1890). The precise illustration by Fitch, showing the plant habit and details of the petals, lip, and column, leaves no doubts about the identity of *Pleurothallis platyrachis* as conspecific with *P. pfavii*.

The combination of bright yellow flowers with red petals, the yellow with a central red line, acute lip, and the rounded, not apiculate petals, distinguish *S. pfavii* from other members of the *S. endotrachys* complex.



**FIGURE 6.** *Specklinia pfavii* (Rchb.f.) Pupulin & Karremans. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Petals. E. Column and lip, side view. F. Lip, front and side views. G. Column, ventral view. H. Anther. I. Pollinia. Drawn by E. Winkel from Karremans 4825 (L-spirit).



**FIGURE 7.** Distribution map of *Specklinia pfavii*.