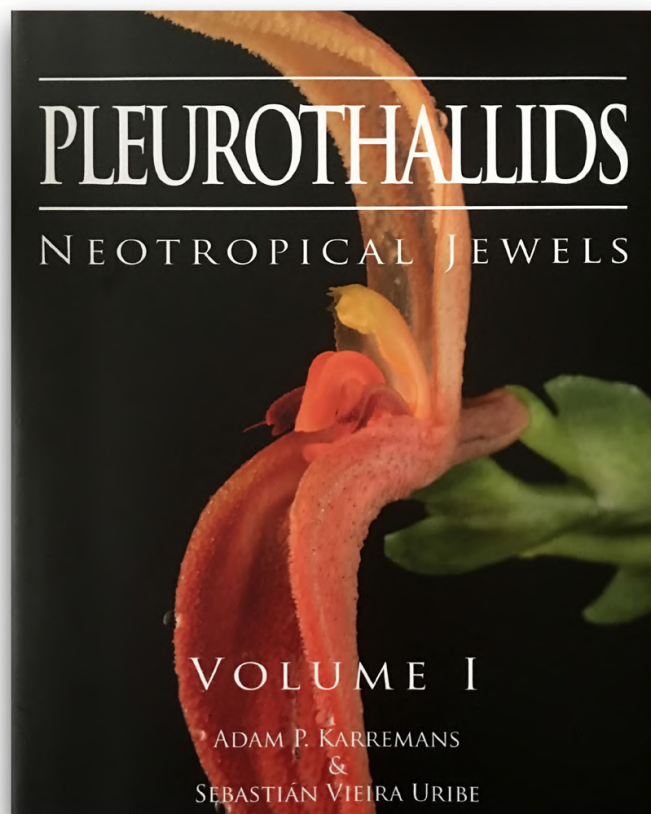


## BOOKS

**Pleurothallids. Neotropical Jewels. Vol. 1**, by Adam P. Karremans and Sebastián Vieira-Uribe. Self-published, printed and bound by Imprenta Mariscal, Quito, Ecuador, 2020. ISBN 978-9942-38-400-3. *In quarto* volume (23.0 × 28.5 cm), 312 + vii pages, about 1,000 color photographs, 14 halftones, 1 line drawing. Hardbound with dust jacket. Price (including shipping): US\$128 North America and European Union; \$121 Central and South America; \$138 elsewhere. Ordering: <https://orchilibra.com/posts/shop>



Years of research, writing, editing, publications, and painstaking macrophotography underpin this spectacular debut volume of *Pleurothallids: Neotropical Jewels* by Adam Karremans and Sebastián Vieira Uribe. Adam is currently Professor at the University of Costa Rica and also Director of Jardín Botánico Lankester. Sebastián is Executive Director of Corporación SalvaMontes Colombia, editor of the long-running journal *Orquideología*, co-editor (with Adam) of the serial monograph *Species Orchidacearum*, and researcher at Jardín Botánico Joaquín Antonio Uribe in Medellín, Colombia. Their combined expertise and skills have produced an outstanding synopsis of 17 genera of subtribe Pleurothallidinae and the two genera in Dilomilinae (*Dilomilis*, *Neocognauxia*) in this first of four projected volumes.

The pleurothallid genera treated here are *Acianthera*, *Anathallis*, *Andinia*, *Andreettaea*, *Chamelophyton*,

*Echinosepala*, *Gravendeelia*, *Lankesteriana*, *Luerella*, *Muscarella*, *Myoxanthus*, *Ophidion*, *Phloeophila*, *Porroglossum*, *Pseudolepanthes*, *Pupulinia*, and *Specklinia*. For each of these genera, some monospecific (e.g. *Andreettaea*) and others with as many as a few hundred species (e.g. *Acianthera*), the authors provide its nomenclatural history and discuss etymology, circumscription, distribution, and ecology. Notes on identification, pollination, and/or taxonomy are included for some genera as well. Fourteen plates of scanning electron micrographs of floral surfaces illustrate features such as hairs and glands, some of which may have a role in attracting pollinators.

Lumpers may feel that some genera are too finely split, while splitters may rail against the lumping in other genera. In most if not all cases there are sound molecular data and/or morphological characters that can be adduced to support either viewpoint.

Differences these days are in the interpretation of those data, and those interpretations may well change as additional evidence springs from new technology, new discoveries in the field, and fresh human viewpoints. We need to remember that systematics of all organisms – from bacteria, algae, and fungi up to birds and mammals and orchids – is never static. If it were, that would mark the end of science as we know it.

Prior to the generic treatments is one for the subtribe as a whole with nomenclature, etymology, and a summary of systematics work beginning with Carlyle Luer's monumental contributions and ending with recent DNA studies. Immediately following that is a welcome chapter on vegetative morphology, thoroughly illustrating wide variations in habit, rhizomes, stems ("ramicauls"), and leaves in full color. Just to assemble the mosaic of images in each educational plate must have required hours and hours.

The photography throughout is stunning, and as anyone who attempts macrophotography knows all too well, it is one thing to produce focused images of tiny flowers (some only a few millimeters across) and quite another to illuminate them evenly with acceptable depth of field and not end up with what resembles either a supernova or else a black hole. The 100+ photographers who contributed their work to this

volume generally succeeded in navigating through this Scylla-Charybdis peril; however, a few photos are clearly underexposed and disappointing. Let no one refer to this as a "coffee-table book," which has disparaging connotations. The extreme close-ups are beautiful, yes, but they succeed in demonstrating the wide range of variation within and among genera. They also have diagnostic value, which will be helpful beyond measure for non-scientists trying to identify their plants but cannot decipher and visualize technical written descriptions in scientific journals (if such can be ferreted out).

I understand that volume 2 is scheduled for 2022 and will comprise treatments of *Draconanthes*, *Dresslerella*, *Lepanthes*, *Pabstiella*, *Platystele*, *Pleurothallopsis*, *Restrepiella*, *Teagueia*, and some monospecific genera. But for now this should be at the top of your holiday gift list for that pleurothallid aficionado in your midst.

*Alec M. Pridgeon, Ph.D.*

[*Full disclosure: I was privileged to serve on Adam's doctoral committee many years ago at Leiden University, The Netherlands, and also invited to write the foreword for the volume.*]

# Pleurothallids: Neotropical Jewels. Volume 1

Karremans, A.P. and Vieira-Uribe, S. 2020. Self-published. Printed and bound by Imprenta Mariscal, Quito, Ecuador. ISBN 978-9942-38-400-3. Hardbound with dust jacket, 312 + vii pages, about 1,000 color photographs, 14 halftones, 1 line drawing. Price (including shipping): US\$128 North America and European Union; \$121 Central and South America; \$138 elsewhere. Ordering: <https://orchilibra.com/posts/shop>.

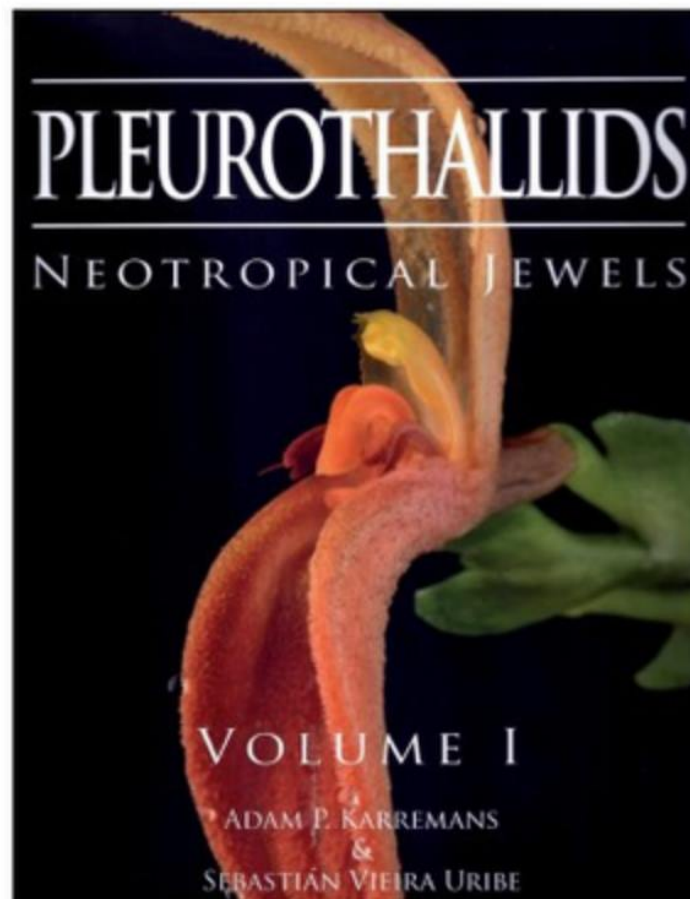
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## PLEUROTHALLIDS, NEOTROPICAL JEWELS, VOLUME 1

Adam Karremans & Sebastián Vieira Uribe. 2020.

Self-published. 312 pp. Hardcover. 9 x 11 inches.

ISBN 978-9942-38-400-3. US \$98.00. [orchilibra.com/posts/shop](http://orchilibra.com/posts/shop)

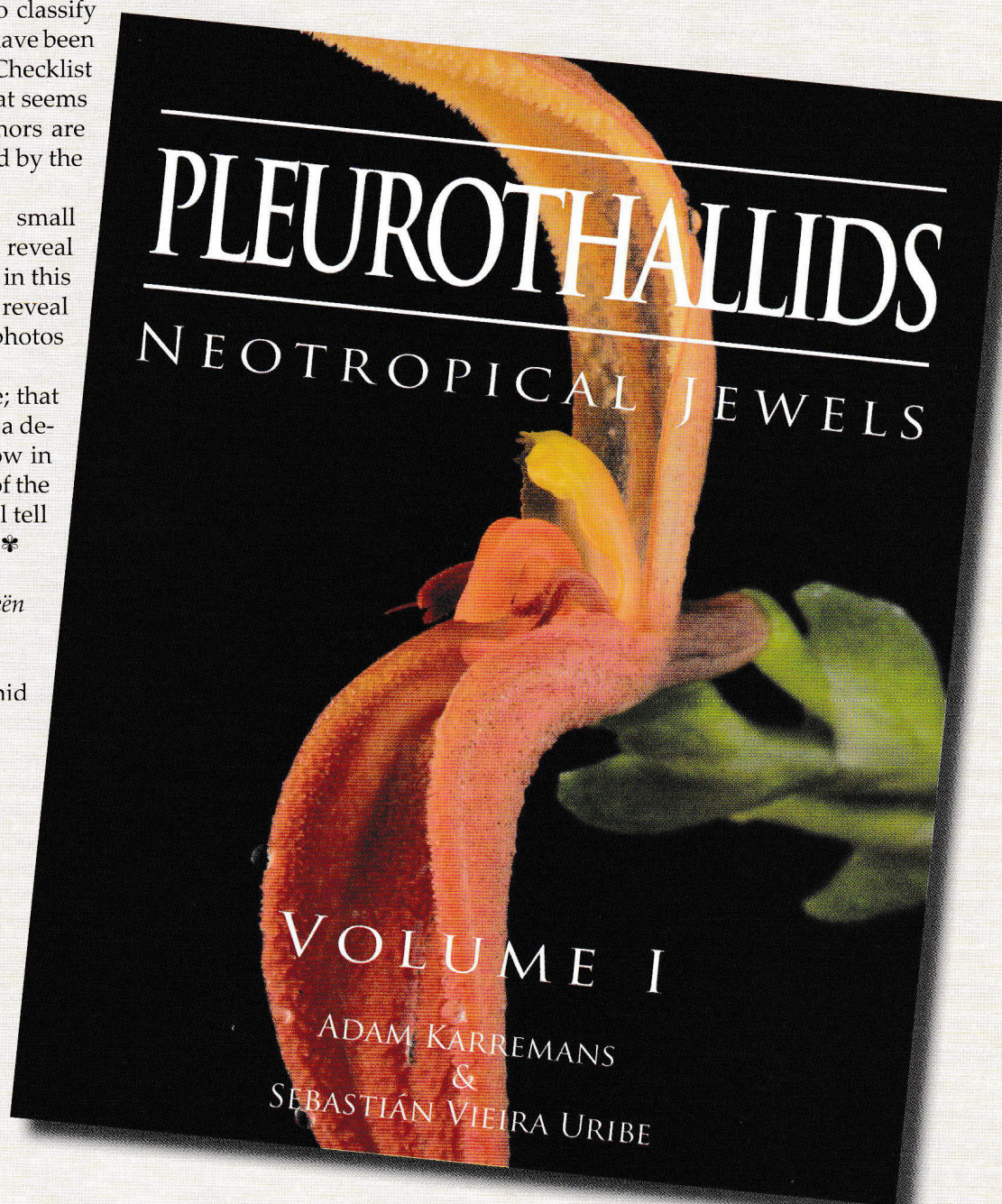
**A**N IN-DEPTH COFFEE TABLE BOOK about pleurothallids? Two orchid experts from Costa Rica and Colombia have embarked on just such a series of four books about this fascinating, large group of orchids. Part 1 was published in autumn 2020, and part 2 is scheduled for 2022.

This first part deals with seventeen genera, from *Acianthera* to *Specklinia*, and within each genus, several characteristic species—all according to the latest scientific insights. Therefore, the book begins with a thorough introduction to the more than five thousand species of pleurothallids and how to classify them. Not all names in this book have been adopted yet by the Kew World Checklist of Selected Plant Families, but that seems a matter of time. These two authors are taken very seriously, as evidenced by the foreword by Alec Pridgeon.

Many pleurothallids have small flowers, which only in close-up reveal their beauty. The (macro) photos in this book, often printed in large size, reveal that beauty! The quality of the photos is fantastic.

Do not expect growing advice; that is not the scope of this series. But a description of where the plants grow in the wild, plus beautiful pictures of the plants in their natural habitat will tell any experienced grower enough.\*

- Gab van Winkel  
Editor of *Orchideeën*  
The bimonthly  
magazine of the  
Netherlands Orchid  
Society



# Book review

Sean Barton

*Pleurothallids, Neotropical Jewels Volume 1* by Adam P Karremans and Sebastián Viera Uribe, 320pp, c.850 colour photographs, 14 b & w photographs, 1 line drawing. Hardback, 23 x 28.5cm, 2020. ISBN 978-9942-38-400-3. US\$128 incl. shipping (UK orders) via [www.orchilibra.com](http://www.orchilibra.com)

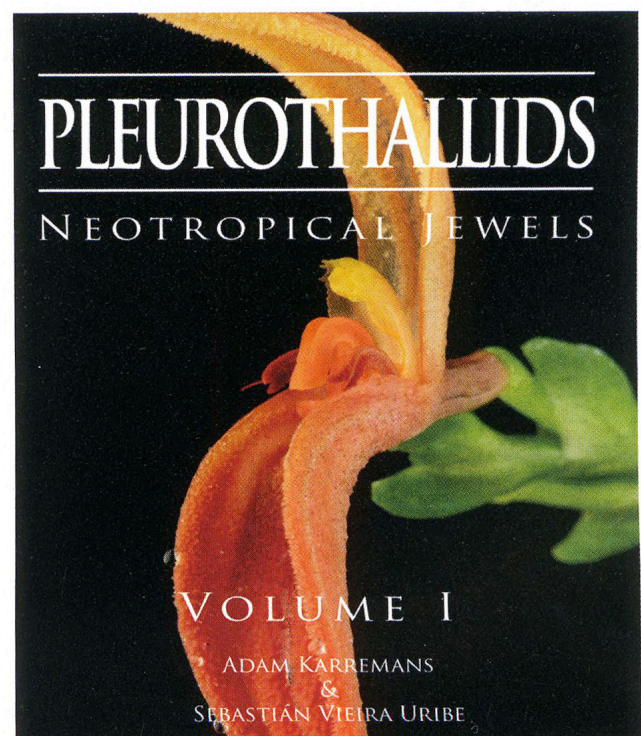
One of the better things to come out of 2020, and much anticipated by Pleurothallidinae fans the world over, is this lavish first volume, which does not disappoint. The sheer number and quality of photographs alone make it worth every cent.

The authors originally planned one book covering all pleurothallid genera but this turned out to be too monumental a task. Many of the 5,481 species are unknown and the relationships of many genera are unresolved. I was fascinated to read how many species some genera include (who knew that *Stelis* comprises 1,246 to date?), leaving me in no doubt as to the scale of the challenge.

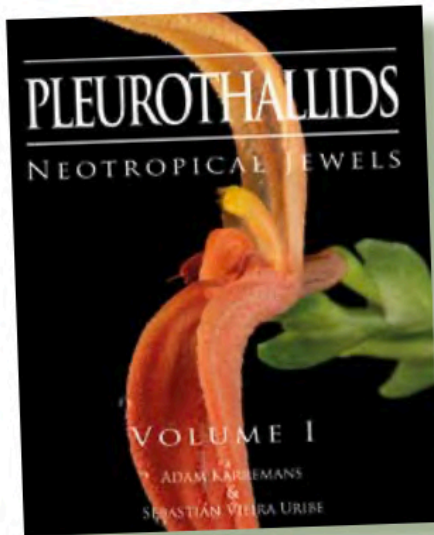
This first volume covers 17 of the 44 pleurothallid genera, some 520 identified species and 20 new ones. None of these genera has been monographed before. Part 1 covers the morphology (stems, leaves, habit) of the subtribe, illustrated with excellent composite photographs. Each genus is then discussed with up-to-date notes on taxonomy, morphology, distribution, ecology and pollination, where known. Pollination notes for *Anathallis* and *Myoxanthus* are published here for the first time. Two species of *Acianthera* represent the extreme westerly and southerly locations of not only all pleurothallids but epiphytes as a whole.

In the authors' own words, this book "must not be regarded as a classification proposal in itself. [It] attempts to portray the magnificent diversity of the subtribe by covering as many distinct lineages as possible and grouping species with their closest relatives to ease determination." On average, 70% of the known species in each genus are pictured. As plants are often sold with wrong names (genus and species), this detail will help hugely with identification. I have already updated a few labels in my collection.

In summary, this book is essential for anyone with an interest in the subtribe, from the amateur hobby grower like myself to the specialised professional. Pleurothallid collectors are a particular subset of orchid nerds who walk the knife-edge of obsession. I found myself trying to track down genera such as *Andreettaea* and *Chamelophyton...* to no avail yet! It is a compliment to the authors that one is left wanting more.



# Voor u gelezen



**Pleurothallids, Neotropical Jewels, Volume 1** door Adam Karremans & Sebastián Vieira Uribe. Uitgave in eigen beheer, 2020, oplage 500 stuks. Hardback, 312 pagina's, 23 x 28 cm, enorm veel foto's. Verkrijgbaar via <https://orchilibra.com/posts/shop> (let op: helemaal naar beneden scrollen voor dit boek) voor US\$ 128 inclusief verzending binnen Europa.

Een koffietafelboek mét diepgang over *Pleurothallis*-achtigen? Twee orchideeëndeskundigen, uit Costa Rica en Colombia, zijn begonnen aan precies zo'n serie van drie boeken over deze fascinerende, grote groep van orchideeën. Deel 1 verscheen dit najaar, deel 2 is gepland in 2022.

In dit eerste deel worden zeventien geslachten behandeld, van *Acianthera* tot *Specklinia*, en binnen elk geslacht een flink aantal kenmerkende soorten - dit alles volgens de laatste wetenschappelijke inzichten. Het boek begint dan ook met een gedegen inleiding over de ruim vijfduizend soorten *Pleurothallis*-achtigen en hoe die in te delen. Die indeling (de naamgeving) uit dit boek is nog niet overall overgenomen door de Kew Checklist (die wij voor ons



Sebastián Vieira Uribe

*Andinia irrasa* uit Colombia siert de achterkaft van het boek

tijdschrift aanhouden als referentie) maar dat lijkt een kwestie van tijd. Deze twee auteurs worden zeer serieus genomen, getuige ook het voorwoord door Alec Pridgeon. *Pleurothallis*-achtigen hebben veelal kleine bloempjes, die pas van dichtbij hun schoonheid onthullen. De (macro) foto's in dit boek, vaak op groot formaat afgedrukt, doen precies dat! Ze zijn stuk voor stuk van fantastische kwaliteit.

Verwacht geen kweekadviezen, wel een beschrijving van waar ze groeien plus schitterende foto's van de planten op hun natuurlijke groeiplaats. Een goeie kweker weet dan eigenlijk al genoeg...!

Gab van Winkel

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# PLEUROTHALLIDS

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NEOTROPICAL JEWELS

VOLUME I

ADAM KARREMANS  
&  
SEBASTIÁN VIEIRA URIBE

# Reseña de un libro

# PLEUROTHALLIDS

# Neotropical Jewels

Adam P. Karremans & Sebastián Vieira Uribe  
Volumen I  
Editado por los autores  
312 páginas  
Impreso en Imprenta Mariscal Quito Ecuador  
1ra edición 2020  
500 ejemplares

Este maravilloso libro, forma parte de una serie que seguramente será larga, donde se pretende cubrir todos los géneros de la gran subtribu Pleurothallidinae, que posee más de 5.100 especies y tiene una variedad enorme de formas y tamaños. En este primer tomo se ilustran muchas de las especies de los géneros escogidos. Realizado por dos grandes estudiosos, Adam Karremans del Lankaster Botanical Garden y nuestro buen amigo, investigador y viajero fotógrafo de naturaleza Sebastián Vieira Uribe, quien además trabaja activamente en conservación y protección de las orquídeas.

Por la gran envergadura que implica asumir un proyecto que incluya las Pleurothallidinas, los autores decidieron hacer

una selección de algunos géneros, empezando con este primer tomo que incluye 17 de ellos, seleccionados como algunos de los más importantes y representativos. Además de tener una descripción seria y muy bien documentada, cada género está acompañado de numerosas fotos de muy buena calidad que nos permiten acercarnos a la identificación de muchas de las especies usando alguna de las 889 imágenes que contiene.

“PLEUROTHALLIDS Neotropical jewels”, es un libro muy recomendado para tener en la biblioteca de todos los que amamos las orquídeas y obligado para quienes nos apasionamos en cultivar y conservar las pequeñas Pleurothallis y sus géneros afines. ■