

***Lepanthes antiopa* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia folio ovato acuminato brevior, racemo congesto, sepalis purpureis flavolimbatis acuminatis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis oblongis glabris, appendice vestigiali.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 4-8.5 cm long, enclosed by 10-12 close, ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with widely dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, acuminate, acute, 3-5.5 cm long, 1-2 cm wide, ciliate along the veins beneath, the base broadly cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 5-13 mm long behind the leaf, floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 2.5 mm long, ovary 3 mm long, sparsely papillose; sepals dark purple, edged in yellow, the margins entire, spiculate along the veins externally, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, obtuse, acuminate, 6 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lateral sepals ovate, oblong, acute, acuminate, 6.25 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; petals purple, transversely oblong, 1 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, the upper lobe subtruncate, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, narrowly obtuse; lip purple, the blade oblong, convex, 2.2 mm long, the ends rounded, the connectives cuneate, connate to the under surface of the base of the column, the appendix reduced to a small, shallowly concave, rounded prominence; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Names for *Nymphalis antiopa* L., The Mourning Cloak, a butterfly familiar to all who have ventured into the temperate forests.

Type: *ECUADOR*: COTOPAXI: epiphytic in cloud forest west of El Corazon, alt. 1200 m, 18 Feb. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4020 (Holotype: SEL).

In spite of the fact that the colors of the flowers of *Lepanthes* are extremely variable, the sepals of this particular plant are purple with broad, yellow margins, reminiscent of the color pattern of the Mourning Cloak. Otherwise, the species may be identified by the short racemes of flowers with acuminate sepals, obtuse petals and lip, and a vestigial appendix.