

Lepanthes atwoodii Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Prov. of San José: Cordillera de Talamanca, Providencia de Dota, Cerro Veraltés, alt. 3000 m, 9 July 1986, *J. Atwood 86-62* (Holotype: SEL; Isotype, MO), C. Luer illustr. 15295. Fig. 1.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima disticha longipedicellata folio elliptico brevior, sepalis late ovatis leviter acuminatis, petalis magnis transverse bilobis, lobis oblique triangularibus obtusis subaequalibus, labelli laminis lunatis acutis, connectivis obliquis, sinu transversali cum appendice minuta.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** slender, erect, 3.5-7 cm long, enclosed by 5-7 dark, closely applied, microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, acute, 4-5 cm long, 1.6-2.2 cm wide, the base cuneate into a 2 mm long petiole. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 15 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 20-27 mm long; floral bracts 2.5 mm long, muricate; pedicels 3.5-5.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** orange, glabrous, 3-carinate, broadly ovate, subacute, slightly acuminate, the dorsal sepal 5 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 5 mm long, 2.9 mm wide, connate 1 mm; **petals** orange, microscopically ciliate, transversely bilobed, 2.3 mm long, 7 mm wide, 3-veined, the lobes obliquely triangular, obtuse, about equal in size; **lip** orange with a maroon stripe, bilaminar, the blades microscopically ciliate, lunate, the bases rounded, in appo-

sition, the apices acute, incurved, distant, 2.3 mm long, the connectives oblique with the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus transverse with the appendix a minute lobule; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Dr. John Atwood who discovered this species.

Vegetatively this species with elliptical leaves and ramicauls tightly clothed by dark sheaths is similar to others in the large complex of species similar to *L. disticha* (A. Rich. & Galeotti) R. Schultes & Garay. The very congested, distichous, long-pedicellate racemes resembling a comb are also similar to those of the aforementioned species. *Lepanthes atwoodii* is distinguished by the broad, lightly acuminate sepals; large, broad, trinerved petals considerably longer than the sepals; and uncinately blades of the lip with a transverse body between the distant apices of the blades. The appendix is reduced to a minute lobule.