



112. ***LEPANTHES BEATRIZAE***
Luer & R. Escobar



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112. *LEPANTHES BEATRIZAE* Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta perparva, racemo laxe paucifloro folio late obovato multilongiore, flore grandi, sepalis obtusis microscopice ciliatis caudatis, petalis minutis transversis lobis obtusis, labelli laminis ellipticis, connectivis corporeve latis cum appendice oblonga pubescenti.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Norte de Santander: below Alto de Santa Inés, alt. 2200 m, collected with *L. echidion* Luer & R. Escobar by E. Valencia, May 1992, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, Nov. 1992, *R. Escobar 5382* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17156.

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada en honor de Beatriz López, quien tiene a su cargo la colección de especies de Colomborquídeas, en El Retiro, Colombia.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Beatriz López, caretaker of the collection of species at Colomborquídeas, El Retiro, Colombia.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 16-20 mm long, enclosed 6-7 microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-obovate, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 9-10 mm long, 7 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole ca. 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively 2- to 3-flowered raceme, up to 35 mm long including the filiform peduncle 20-25 mm long, borne far above the leaf; floral bracts oblique, muricate, 2 mm long; pedicels 3 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** translucent cream, lightly suffused with

rose centrally, low-spiculate-carinate, with the margins microscopically ciliate, the blade of the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, subacute, 8 mm long, 6 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 2.5 mm, the apex contracted into a slender tail 4 mm long, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, obtuse, connate 4 mm into a bifid lamina, 8 mm long, 10 mm wide, the diverging apices contracted into tails 4 mm long; **petals** orange, microscopically cellular-pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.8 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, the lobes oblong with rounded ends, the upper lobe larger; **lip** red, bilobed, the blades microscopically pubescent, ciliate at the apices, elliptical with rounded ends, 1.3 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, with the appendix oblong, pubescent; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the anther apical and the stigma ventral.

Esta especie, la cual ha sido cultivada en Colomborquídeas, se conoce sólomente de una colecta en la Cordillera Oriental de Colombia. Es una de las especies minúsculas con flores gigantescas, varias veces más grandes que la hoja. Únicamente unas pocas flores se producen sucesivamente, bastante arriba de las hojas. Los sépalos tienen caudas delgadas; los pétalos son diminutos y transversalmente lobulados; los lóbulos del labelo son oblongos, lo mismo que el pubescente apéndice.

This species is known only from a collection in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia and cultivated at Colomborquídeas. It is one of the tiny species with giant flowers that are several times larger than the leaf. Only a very few flowers are produced successively far above the leaves. The sepals are slender-tailed; the petals are minute and transverseiy lobed; the lobes of the lip are oblong, as well as the pubescent appendix.