

Lepanthes brevipedicellata Luer, R.Escobar & Thoele, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COLOMBIA. Norte de Santander: between Alto de Pozo and Villa Caro, alt. 2000 m, collected May 1982 by R. Escobar, D. Portillo, J. and C. Luer,

R. Escobar 3246, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquideas, May 1984, *C. Luer 10041* (Holotype: MO). Fig. 22.

Species haec Lepanthis norae Foldats affinis, sed pedicellis brevissimis, ovarii carinis papillois, rachidi minute pubescenti, petalorum lobis inaequalibus, et labelli lamellis non longiciliatis differt.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fleshy. *Ramicauls* slender, erect, 7–10 mm long, enclosed by 3–4 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. *Leaf* erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 11–13 mm long, 7 mm wide, the base rounded, contracted into a petiole 2 mm long. *Inflorescence* a subcongested, successively flowered raceme of up to 13 flowers, 9 mm long, borne beyond the leaf by a minutely, sparsely pubescent peduncle 12–18 mm long; floral bracts spiculate, 1 mm long; pedicels 0.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long with papillose ribs; *sepals* red-purple with dull orange veins, membranous, ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, carinate, minutely ciliate, the dorsal sepal 7 mm long, 4.25 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 2 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, each 7.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 3 mm; *petals* yellow with red margins, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, rounded at the tip, 1.8 mm long, 1 mm wide, the lower lobe narrowly oblong-subtriangular, obtuse, 1.8 mm long, 0.9 mm wide; *lip* red, bilaminar, the laminae flat, oblong with the ends rounded, microscopically pubescent, ciliate at the tips, 1.2 mm long, the connectives broadly triangular, connate to the base of the column, the sinus broad with the appendix small, oblong, ciliate, with a minute, apical process; *column* 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *brevipedicellatus*, “with short pedicels,” the most distinguishing feature.

This species is known from one collection in the Eastern Cordillera. It is characterized by a very small habit with roots thicker than the ramicauls. The leaves are elliptical, obtuse, and about one centimeter long. The extremely short pedicels distinguish this species from *Lepanthes norae* Foldats, with which it is most closely allied. The sepals of the proportionally large flowers are membranous and acute. The ovary is papillose along the ribs. The lobes of the petals are about equally long with the upper lobe twice

as wide. The blades of the lip are oblong and borne by broadly triangular connectives. The appendix is small and pubescent with a minute, apical process.

