

Lepanthes brunnescens Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris debilis, foliis floribusque brunneis, folio ovato acuminato inflorescentia longiore, racemo congestissimo longipedicellato, sepalis ovatis, petalis transverse trilobis, lobo superiore cuneato integro, lobo inferiore apice truncato eroso, lobo mediano setiformi, labelli laminis oblongis agglutinatis, appendice crasso cymbiformi pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose, weak; roots filamentous. Secondary stems slender to suberect or horizontal, 2-8 cm long, enclosed by 5-10 close, microscopically ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, satiny brown, ovate, 2-4 cm long, 0.8-1.7 cm wide, the apex acuminate, acute, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested, long-pedicellate raceme up to 4 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 6-15 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 4-4.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals translucent tan, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 3.25 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate 1.5 mm into an ovate, broadly bifid lamina 3 mm long, 3 mm wide, the apices subacute; petals brown, microscopically pubescent, transversely trilobed, 1.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the upper lobe cuneate with rounded angles of the apex, the lower lobe cuneate with the truncate apex erose, the middle lobe setiform, 1 mm long, from the outer margin at the middle; lip dark brown, microscopically cellular-pubescent, the blades oblong, 1.8 mm long, agglutinated medially over the column, the apices subtruncate, the bases narrowly obtuse, the connectives short, broadly cuneate from the middle of the blades, connate to the column above the base, the appendix from the sinus, large, oblong-cymbiform, pubescent, with an apical gland; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *brunnescens*, "becoming brown," referring to the color of the leaves and flowers.

Type: Panama: Prov. of Panama: epiphytic in cloud forest, Cerro Jefe, alt. 900 m, 1 Dec. 1983, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Maduro & H. Butcher 9200 (Holotype: SEL).

This relative of the common South American L. mucronata Lindl. is characterized by the overall brown color, a long-pedicellate, congested raceme, petals with the lower lobe erose, and a lip with broad connectives from the middle of the blades, and a large, boat-shaped appendix with figurehead.