

Lepanthes caloptera Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva, inflorescentia folio elliptico breviter acuminato brevior, racemo congesto disticho, petalis transverse bilobis sep-
alis ovatis longioribus, lobis petalorum subaequalibus subfalcatis
et obtuse angulatis, labelli laminis ovalibus, appendice crassa di-
gitiformi.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary
stems slender, erect, 15-27 mm long, enclosed by 4-6 dark brown,
minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous,
broadly elliptical, 22-27 mm long, 13-15 mm wide, the apex subacute
to obtuse, lightly acuminate, the base broadly cuneate into the pet-
iole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively
flowered raceme up to 5 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a fili-
form peduncle 10-12 mm long; floral bract muricate, 1 mm long; pedi-
cel 2-3 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals translucent white, ovate,
lightly acuminate, acute, the dorsal sepal 4.5 mm long, 3.25 mm
wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals
connate 2 mm into a broadly bifid lamina 4 mm long, 3 mm wide; pet-
als yellow, suffused with purple medially, microscopically pubes-
cent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the
lobes subequal, subfalcate, each with an obtuse angle on the outer
margin; lip red-purple, minutely pubescent, the blades ovate with
rounded ends, 1 mm long, the connectives short, cuneate, connate to
the column above the base, the appendix thick, oblong, pubescent, at
the sinus, protruding immediately beneath the stigma; column 1 mm
long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek calos, "beautiful," and pteron, "wing,"
referring to the petals of the species.

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 9194 (Holotype: SEL).

This species with a congested raceme shorter than the elliptical
leaf is most remarkable for the more or less equally falcate lobes
of the petals longer than the sepals, and a thick, fingerlike appen-
dix in close proximity to the stigma.