

Lepanthes columbar Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, foliis anguste lineari-ovatis racemo debili triplolongioribus, flore minuto, sepalo dorsali elliptico, uninervi, synsepalo late ovato, petalis transverse oblongis, labello transverse ovato ciliato apice rotundato leviter bilobato.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems erect, slender, 4-7 cm long, enclosed by 6-8 close lepanthiform sheaths, microscopically scabrous. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly linear-ovate, acute, 24-27 mm long, 5 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 3-4 mm long. Inflorescence a successively few-flowered raceme up to 6 mm long, borne by a capillary peduncle up to 6 mm long behind the leaf; floral bract 0.8 mm long; pedicel 0.75 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals yellow, glabrous, the dorsal sepal elliptical, obtuse, 1.8 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, 1-nerved, the lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovate lamina 1.75 mm long and wide, 2-nerved, the obtuse apex minutely notched; petals orange, transversely oblong-bilobed, 0.4 mm long, 1.66 mm wide, the lobes about equal with the ends obtuse; lip red-orange, transversely ovate-oblong, 0.75 mm long, 1 mm wide, ciliate, the apex broadly rounded, shallowly bilobed, the basal lobes rounded, to either side of the column, the base connate to the under surface of the column; column 0.8 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology: From the Latin *columbar*, "a pillory-like yoke," in reference to the collarlike lip.

Type: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: epiphytic in cloud forest between Quito and Santo Domingo, alt. ca. 3000 m, 28 Oct. 1979, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4396* (Holotype: SEL); *NAPO*: epiphytic in cloud forest near Papallacta, alt. 2500 m, 29 Oct. 1979, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4444* (SEL).

This species is notable for the narrow, little leaf, a short inflorescence of very small flowers, an elliptical, 1-veined dorsal sepal, and a ciliated, transversely ovate lip attached like a bib beneath the column.