

**Lepanthes confusoides** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for the similarity of the flower to *L. confusa* Ames & C.Schweinf.

Planta parva, inflorescentia disticha congestissima folio elliptico reticulato plus minusve excedenti, floribus illis *L. confusae* Ames & C.Schweinf. simmils, sed corpore angustiore cum appendice setiformi differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2-4 cm long, enclosed by 3-6 microscopically scabrous, dark brown, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, reticulated, 20-25 mm long, 10-14 mm wide, the base broadly cuneate into a petiole 1-2 mm long. Inflorescence a distichous, congested, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 15 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 18-25 mm long, along the back of the leaf; floral bracts 1-1.5 mm long; pedicel 2-2.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals yellow, glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal triangular, subacute, 2.75 mm long, 2.1 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals oblong, oblique, obtuse, 2.9 mm long, 1.4 mm wide, connate 1.2 mm; petals orange with red at the base, ciliate and minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.8 mm long, 3.4 mm wide, 3-veined, the upper lobe narrowly triangular, obtuse, the lower lobe smaller, narrowly triangular, oblique; lip orange, ciliate and microscopically pubescent, bilaminate, the blades oblong, surrounding the column, 1 mm long, the apices and bases obtuse, the connectives cuneate, the body narrow, connate to the base of the column, the sinus narrow with the appendix minute, setiform; column 0.9 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

PANAMA: Bocas del Toro, forest at alt. 900 m, collected by E. Olmos, cultivated at Finca Dracula, Cerro Punta, 15 Nov. 1998, C. Luer 18975 (Holotype: MO).

The flower of this species, apparently endemic in western Panama, resembles that of *L. confusa*, which is known from Costa Rica to Ecuador. The flower differs in glabrous sepals and a narrow body of the lip with a setiform appendix. Vegetatively, however, differences are marked. *Lepanthes confusoides* is distinguished by the long peduncle that bears the very congested raceme near or beyond the apex of a reticulated leaf.

