

Lepanthes contingens Luer. sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, foliis heteromorphis late ovatis vel anguste ellipticis, racemo brevi, sepalis glabris acutis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis anguste oblongis diaphanis ad apicem intus angulatis, connectivis erectis, corpore longi-unguiculato, appendice oblonga pubescenti cum glande terminali processo stigmatis contingenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect to suberect, 5-11 cm long, enclosed by 9-11 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths with broadly dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, variable in size and shape, from broadly ovate to narrowly elliptical, from 3.5 cm long, 2 cm wide, to 5.5 cm long, 1 cm wide, the apex obtuse to acute, the base cuneate or rounded, contracted into a petiole 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively flowered raceme up to 12 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 10 mm long up the back of the leaf; floral bract 2 mm long; pedicel 1.25 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals yellow with purple stripes along the veins, glabrous, the dorsal sepal triangular, 5 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the sub-acute apex shortly acuminate, the lateral sepals connate 2 mm into an ovate, acute synsepal, 5 mm long, 4 mm wide, the acuminate apices approximate; petals yellow, suffused with red-brown, transversely oblong, 1.1 mm long, 4 mm wide, with a small, obtuse angle on the margin at the midvein, the upper lobe oblong, truncate, the lower lobe smaller, triangular, acute; lip red-brown, the blades narrowly oblong, thin, membranous, transparent, 2.2 mm long, acutely angled on the inner margin near the narrowly obtuse apex, the connectives oblong, erect, lifting the blades above the column, the body with a slender, basal claw connate to the base of the column, the appendix oblong, pubescent, terminated by a small gland which is in contact with a strap-shaped process from the cavity of the stigma; column slender, clavate, 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *contingens*, "in contact with," in reference to the process from the stigma in contact with the apical gland of the sspendix.

Type: *ECUADOR*: LOJA: epiphytic in cloud forest east of Yangana, alt. 2850 m, 4 March 1982, C. Luer, D. D'Alessandro & S. Dalström 7152 (Holotype: SEL); NAPO: epiphytic in cloud forest near Papallacta, alt. 2500 m, 29 Oct. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4448 (SEL); *COLOMBIA*: NARINO: epiphytic in cloud forest east of La Victoria, alt. 3200 m, 4 Nov. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4637 (SEL).

The leaves of this species are unusually variable in size and shape, but most remarkable is the appendix which is in contact with a process from the stigmatic cavity, a phenomenon also seen in *L. transparens*. The lips of both species are attached to the base of the column by a long, slender claw.