

**Lepanthes craticia** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta grandis caespitosa, inflorescentia folio elliptico acuminato brevior, racemo congesto, sepalis glabris acuminatis, petalis reniformibus, labelli laminis ellipticis convexis, appendice oblonga cum glande apicali truncata.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 12-25 cm long, enclosed by 10-18 close, glabrous lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical, acuminate, acute, 5-8 cm long, 1.8-2.6 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 3 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively flowered raceme up to 35 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 25 mm long behind the leaf; floral bract and pedicel each 1.25 mm long, ovary 2 mm long; sepals yellow, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, acuminate, acute, 11 mm long, 4.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblong, oblique, 11 mm long, connate 4 mm, 8 mm wide together, the apices acuminate acute; petals yellow with red margins, transversely bilobed, reniform, 2.5 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, the lobes equal, oblong with rounded apices; lip orange with red-orange margins, the blades glabrous, elliptical with rounded ends, 2 mm long, the connectives short, broad, connate to the under surface of the column above the base, the appendix broadly oblong with a short, truncate, terminal gland; column 2.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

**Etymology:** From the Latin *craticius*, "latticed," in reference to the appearance of the densely flowered rachis.

**Type:** *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA-CHIHCHIPE: epiphytic in scrub vegetation between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2700 m, 21 Sept. 1980, *C. Luer, J. Luer, C. Dodson et al. 5523* (Holotype: SEL); same area, alt. 2700 m, 30 Dec. 1980, *M. Madison et al. 7445* (SEL); MORONA-SA

NA-SANTIAGO: between Gualaceo and Limon, alt. 2650 m, 29 Oct. 1982, *C. Luer, R. Escobar & A. Pozo 8215* (SEL).

This large species, one of a large group of similar species, is distinguished by the glabrous, acuminate sepals, reniform petals, glabrous blades of the lip, and an oblong appendix with a truncate, apical gland.