

Lepanthes deliqua Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva, racemis paucis laxe flexuosis folio elliptico plus minusve longioribus, sepalis denticulatis acuminatis, petalis anguste transverse oblongis, labelli laminis suborbiculatis pubescentibus connectivis angustis, corpore appendiceque deliquis.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform. Secondary stems slender, erect, 3.5-5.5 cm tall, enclosed by 5-7 minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 22-25 mm long, 8-12 mm wide, cuneate below to the subpetiolate base. Inflorescence a loose, flexuous, progressively lengthening raceme 1.5-5 cm long including the filiform peduncle ca. 1 cm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long, muricate; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals yellow, diffusely suffused with purple, carinate, minutely denticulate, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acute, acuminate, 6 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate basally for 0.75 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, connate 3 mm, 6.5 mm long, 3.75 mm wide together, the apices acute, acuminate into slender, incurved tails; petals yellow, suffused with purple medially, narrowly transversely oblong, minutely pubescent, 0.6 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lobes narrowly triangular-oblong, narrowly obtuse, the lower lobe longer; lip purple, the blades minutely pubescent, suborbicular, 1.33 mm long and wide, deflexed to surround the apical half of the column, the connectives narrowly cuneate from the bases of the blades to the connection directly to the under surface of the column near the middle without forming a body or appendix; column 1.5 mm long, decurved-arcuate, the anther dorsal with a large, bifurcated cap, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin deliquis, "lacking, wanting," referring to the total absence of the body and appendix of the lip.

Type: Ecuador: Prov. of Chimborazo: La Palma, alt. 2800 m, July 1983, A. Hirtz 1255 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9155.

This species is most unusual for the complete absence of a body and appendix of the lip. The round blades of the lip surround the arcuate column, and they are suspended by narrow connectives that originate directly from the under surface of the column without prior union into a body. Consequently, there is no trace of an appendix.