

Lepanthes demissa Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris debilis, foliis tenuibus anguste ovatis inflorescentia longioribus, racemo congesto disticho, sepalis ovatis microscopicamente denticulatis, petalis parvis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis anguste oblongis connectivis late cuneatis, appendice extus minuta pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems weak, slender, erect to transverse, 3-9.5 cm long, enclosed by 6-11 lepanthiform sheaths with minutely ciliate, dilated ostia. Leaf erect to suberect, thinly coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acuminate, acute, 3.5-5.5 cm long, 8-12 mm wide, the base cuneate into a 1 mm long petiole. Inflorescence a congested, distichous raceme up to 5 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 10-24 mm long; floral bract 2 mm long, lightly muricate; pedicel 1.5 mm long, ovary 1.5 mm long, 6-carinate; sepals dull tan, ovate, acute, carinate-spiculate, the margins cellular-denticulate, the dorsal sepal 5 mm long, 2.6 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals connate 1 mm, 5 mm long, 1.8 mm wide; petals orange-brown, microscopically pubescent, transversely oblong, 0.5 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, the ends of the lobes rounded, the lower lobe much smaller than the upper lobe; lip orange-brown, microscopically pubescent, the blades narrowly oblong, 1.4 mm long, the apices narrowly obtuse, incurved, the bases narrowly rounded, the connectives broadly cuneate, connected to the base of the column, the body with a small round cavity near the protuberant, rounded, pubescent sinus, the body pubescent externally with a minute, pedunculated, pubescent appendix; column 1.4 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology; From the Latin demissus, "drooping, weak," in reference to the habit of the plant.

Type: Panama: Prov. of Chiriqui: epiphytic in cloud forest above Guadalupe, alt. 2300 m, 8 Dec. 1983, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Maduro 9292 (Holotype: SEL).

This species is characterized by the thin, weak stems with a congested inflorescence on top of the thin, narrowly ovate, acuminate leaf. The sepals are cellular-denticulate, the petals are small, and the appendix is minute and pubescent on the under surface of the body of the lip.