

This species grows in subpáramo forest with *Lepanthes aquila-borussiae* Rchb.f. and hundreds of plants of *Masdevallia fragrans* Woolward in the Páramo de Jurisdicciones in the Eastern Cordillera. It is closely allied to the former, being distinguished by twice larger flowers with long-acuminate tails. Invisible to someone without a strong loupe, the appendix is reduced to a microscopic bristle. The appendix of *L. aquila-borussiae* is also microscopic, but it is pubescent and pedunculate, several times larger than the bristle of *L. eucerca*.

***Lepanthes eucerca* Luer & Thoele, sp. nov.**

TYPE: COLOMBIA. Norte de Santander: Páramo de Jurisdicciones, alt. 3150 m, 10 May 1984, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 10232 (Holotype: MO). Fig. 26.

Species haec Lepanthis aquila-borussiae Rchb.f. affinis, sed sepalis majoribus longicaudatisque et appendice microscopica setiforme distibguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. *Ramicauls* erect, slender, 3–7 cm long, enclosed by 6–8 long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. *Leaf* erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, 3.5 cm long, 1.2 cm wide, contracted below into a petiole 2 mm long. *Inflorescence* 2–3 erect, congested, distichous, successively many-flowered racemes to 25 mm long, including the peduncle 5–10 mm long, borne behind the leaf; floral bracts echinate, 2 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary costate, 2 mm long; *sepals* yellow suffused with red, prominently denticulate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, long-acuminate, 5.5–7.5 mm long, 3–3.25 wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for ca. 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, long-acuminate, 7–9 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm; *petals* yellow with red inner margin, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long, 2.25–3.5 mm wide, the upper lobe narrowly oblong, obtuse, 2–3 mm long, the lower lobe triangular, acute, 1–1.5 mm long; *lip* red, minutely ciliate-pubescent, bilaminate, the blades incomplete, curved, elliptical-ovate, 1.6 mm long, the apex incurved, acute, free of the blade, the connectives broadly cuneate, embracing the column, the body broad, connate just above the base of the column, the appendix microscopic, setiform, at the sinus; *column* stout, 1.5 mm long, with the anther and the stigma apical, occupying half the length of the column.

Etymology: From the Greek *eu-*, “good” and *kerkos*, “a tail,” referring to the long-caudate sepals.

