

Lepanthes frigida Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, racemis laxe plurifloris folio anguste elliptico brevioribus vel longioribus, sepalis acutis denticulatis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis oblongis apice acutis incurvis, connectivis latissimis, appendice minuta pedunculata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems relatively stout, erect, 5-11 cm long, enclosed by 6-8 close lepanthiiform sheaths with ciliate ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, 4.5-6.5 cm long including the 2-3 mm long petiole, 7-11 mm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence racemose, 2-3 loose, distichous, successively several-flowered racemes up to 9 cm long including the 5-8 mm long, slender peduncle; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals yellow to orange, minutely denticulate, the dorsal sepal elliptic-ovate, acute, 4.3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate basally to the lateral sepals for 0.75 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 1-veined, connate 1.5 mm, 4.3 mm long, 3 mm wide together; petals yellow with red margins, microscopically pubescent, transversely oblong, 0.75 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, with a small, obscure angle on the outer margin between the lobes, both lobes oblong, obtuse, the upper lobe twice longer than the lower lobe; lip yellow with red margins, microscopically pubescent, the blades oblong, 1.4 mm long, the apices broad, acute, incurved, the bases obtuse, the connectives broadly cuneate, connected to the column below the middle, the sinus acute, with a minute, pedunculated, ciliate appendix; column 2 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

**Etymology:** From the Latin frigidus, "cold," referring to the cold, high altitude of the habitat.

**Type:** Ecuador: Prov. of Chimborazo: La Palma, alt. 3600 m, July 1983, A. Hirtz 1249 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9158.

This species, a member of the group with an apical stigma, is notable for the narrowly elliptical leaves with loose inflorescences that begin flowering from near the base and continue until the raceme is about twice as long as the leaf. The sepals are acute and denticulate, the petals are transversely oblong, the apices of the lip are broadly incurved beneath the apex of the column, and the appendix is minute and pedunculated.