

A NEW SPECIES OF LEPANTHES SW. FROM VENEZUELA

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The relatively large petals are characteristic of *L. gin-ganii*.
Photo of the plant that served as the holotype.

Lepanthes gin-ganii Luer & Thoerle, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: VENEZUELA: without collection data, purchased at an orchid show, 2007, by Gin Gan and cultivated in San Marino, California, flowered in cultivation Sept. 2009, *Gin Gan s.n.* (Holotype of *L. gin-ganii*: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21460.

Species haec Lepanthidis samacensis Ames similis, sed habitu majori, pedicellis multilongioribus, labelli lobis concavis non incrassatis et appendice minuta non incrassata differt.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** slender, erect, 3-7 cm long, enclosed by 6-7 closely fitting, dark, microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform

sheaths with minimal or nondilated ostia. **Leaf** suberect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical-ovate, subacute to obtuse, 2.5-3.0 cm long, 1.5-2.0 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate to rounded, abruptly contracted into a petiole 2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a distichous, long-pedicellate, successively flowered raceme, loose at the base, congested above, up to 8 mm long, borne either behind or top of the leaf by a peduncle 15-20 mm long, among numerous persisting peduncles; floral bracts 1.25 mm long; pedicels 3 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long. **Sepals** light yellow, glabrous, entire, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute to subacute, 2.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined, connate basally to the lateral sepals for 0.25 mm, the lateral sepals suffused with red centrally, ovate, oblique, obtuse, 2.25 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1.5 mm. **Petals** orange, suffused with red basally, microscopical-

ly pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3 mm wide, 1-veined, the lobes subequal, oblong-ovate with rounded ends, the upper lobe slightly larger. **Lip** red, bilaminar, cellular at most, the lobes oblong, shallowly concave, 1 mm long, with the ends rounded, forming blades below the apical third, the connectives cuneate, from the middle of the lobes, connate to the base of the column, the sinus broad with the appendix small, oblong, ciliate at the tip. **Column** stout, 1 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for Gin Gan of San Marino, California, who successfully cultivates this species.

DISTRIBUTION:

The following have been reported by both Dunsterville and Foldats as *L. samacensis*:

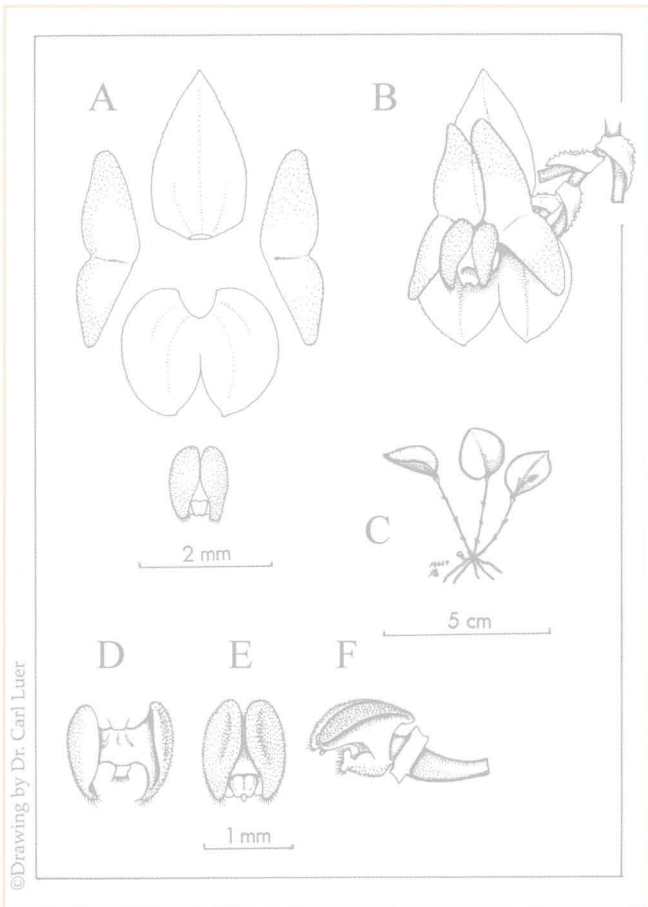
VENEZUELA: Mérida: near Mérida, La Mucuy, alt. 2400 m, Jan. 1961, G.C.K. *Dunsterville & E. Dunsterville* 593.

Falcón: Sierra de San Luis, near Curimagua, alt. 1200 m, *C. García E. s.n.*

The following have been reported by Dunsterville as *L. wagneri*:

VENEZUELA: Aragua: Tiara road, G.C.K. *Dunsterville s.n.*

Yaracuy: Salon-Timerla road, alt. 1000 m, July 1954, G.C.K. *Dunsterville & E. Dunsterville* 210.



Lepanthes samacensis Ames

A: Dissected perianth. B: Flower. C: Habit. D: Lip, spread.
E: Lip and column, front view.
F: Ovary, column and lip, lateral view.

The following have been reported by Foldats as *L. wagneri*:

Dist. Fed.: between Portachuela and Peñita, alt. 1300 m, *J.A. Steyermark & M. Rabe* 96026.

Aragua: Colonia Továr, A. Fendler 1484; Parque Nacional H. Pittier, E. Foldats, G. Agostini & M. Foldats 9.

Falcón: Sierra de San Luis, near Curimagua, alt. 1300-1400 m, *J.A. Steyermark* 99216, 99371.

Merida: Pmo. Monsalves, *V. Vareschi* 2495; valle Sto. Domingo alt. 1700 m, *V. Vareschi* 7510.

Sucre: Penins. de Paria, Cerro Humo, alt. 1060 m, *J.A. Steyermark* 94819.

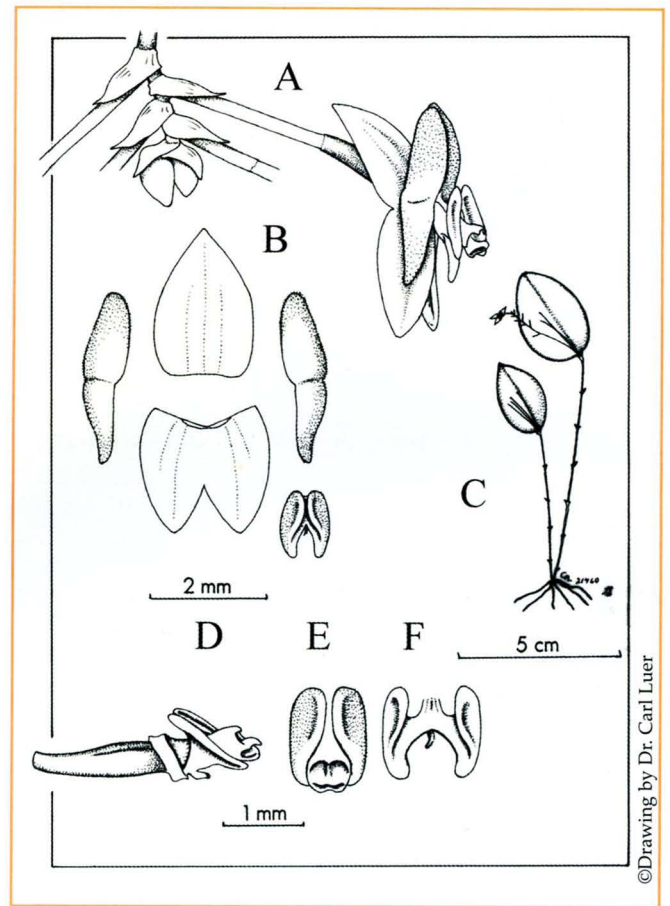
Yaracuy: Salon-Timerla road, alt. 1000 m, July 1954, G.C.K. *Dunsterville & E. Dunsterville* 210.

This species, widely distributed in western Venezuela, is characterized by a small to medium-sized plant with a congested raceme of conspicuously long-pedicellate flowers borne behind a broadly elliptical leaf. The size of the flowers varies, those described above being smaller than the flowers illustrated by Dunsterville in *Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated*, vol. 4. The dorsal sepal is ovate and more or less reflexed. The lateral sepals are shorter, deeply connate, and broadly obtuse. The transverse petals are comparatively large, longer than any one of the sepals. The blades of the lip are shallowly concave and absent beyond the middle third. The appendix is small with a terminal tuft of hairs.

Lepanthes gin-ganii differs from *L. samacensis* from Mesoamerica by its larger size, much longer pedicels, a lip with the blades slightly concave and not thickened, and a minute and slender appendix with a tuft of cilia at the tip, instead of an appendix that is large, thick and ovoid.



The flowers of *L. gin-ganii* are borne by long pedicels in a congested raceme.



Lepanthes gin-ganii Luer & Thorerle

A: Flower. B: Dissected perianth. C: Habit. D: Ovary, column and lip, lateral view. E: Lip and column, front view. F: Lip, spread.