

Lepanthes ictalurus Luer, sp. nov.

Planta pusilla caespitosa, caulibus secundariis foliis orbicularibus multilongioribus, racemo elongato fractiflexo, sepalis anguste triangularibus spiculatis, lobo inferiore petalorum attenuato pubescenti, lobo superiore brevi truncato, labelli lamina ellipticis apice in caudam filiformem abrupte attenuato.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, suberect, 2.5-6 cm long, enclosed by 5-8 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical to suborbicular, 12-15 mm long, 8-11 mm wide, the apex obtuse to rounded, the rounded base abruptly contracted into a petiole ca. 2 mm long. Inflorescence a progressively lengthening, successively flowered, fractiflex raceme up to 7 cm long including the filiform peduncle; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long, with serrulate wings; sepals purple with yellow margins, spiculate along the edges and carinate nerves externally, the dorsal sepal narrowly triangular, concave, 7 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate 5 mm into an ovate, bifid lamina 7 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the apices approximate, acute; petals yellow, suffused with rose, pubescent, markedly unequally transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the upper lobes short, more or less truncate, incurved into apposition over the column, the lower lobes attenuate, linear triangular; lip yellow, suffused with rose, the blades elliptical, glabrous, 2 mm long, the apex of each abruptly contracted into a filiform appendage 2 mm long, the connectives short, broadly rectangular, connate to the under surface of the column above the middle, the sinus pubescent with the appendix reduced to a minute apiculum; column slender, 2.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Named for the genus *Ictalurus*, the genus of the common catfish.

Type: *ECUADOR*: LOJA: epiphytic in cloud forest east of Yangana, alt. 2650 m, 4 March 1982, C. Luer, D. D'Alessandro & S. Dalström 7151 (Holotype: SEL); south of Yangana, alt. 2400 m, 22 Sept. 1980, C. Luer, J. Luer & H. H. Morgan 5530 (SEL).

The column of this species is long and slender. Between the middle and lower thirds the petals are attached; between the middle and upper thirds the lip is attached. The short upper lobes of the petals meet over the column while the attenuated lower lobes descend behind the lip and protrude below. The apices of the blades of the lip are contracted into equally long, filiform appendages. These four descending tails of the petals and lip resemble the barbels of a catfish.