

Lepanthes illex Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, racemo sublaxo folio anguste elliptico acuminato brevior, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque anguste ovatis acutis similibus minute pubescentibus ciliatis, petalis transverse panduriformibus parvulis, labelli laminis ovatis glabris appendice pedunculata ovata ciliata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems slender, erect, 6-10 cm long, enclosed by 7-8 glabrous to microscopically scabrous lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf thinly coriaceous, erect, narrowly elliptical, acute, acuminate, 4.5-7.5 cm long, 1.5-1.8 cm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole 4 mm long. Inflorescence a successive, sublaxly flowered raceme up to 6 cm long including the filiform peduncle behind the leaf; floral bract 2 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long, irregularly erose-winged; sepals yellow, suffused with purple centrally, carinate-ciliate externally, the margins microscopically ciliate, microscopically pubescent within, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, 10 mm long, 4 mm wide, connate basally for 1.5 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals connate 6 mm into an ovate, shortly bifid lamina 9.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, the apices acute; petals orange, suffused with purple medially, transversely panduriform, 0.6 mm long, 2 mm wide, the lobes ovate, obtuse, the lower lobe slightly smaller; lip bright purple, the blades oblong-ovate, 1.5 mm long, glabrous, the apices subacute, the bases rounded, the connectives broadly cuneate, connate to the column above the base, the appendix ovate, ciliate, pedunculate; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *illex*, "seductive," in allusion to the presumed attractive function of the appendix.

Type: *ECUADOR*: *CARCHI*: epiphytic in cloud forest above El Carmelo, alt. 3200 m, 17 May 1981, *C. Luer, J. Luer A. Hirtz et al. 6263* (Holotype: SEL).

This species may be recognized by the sublax raceme of large, successive flowers shorter than the acuminate leaf. The petals and lip are comparatively small, the petals transversely pandurate, the appendix of the lip is a small, ovate, ciliate, pedunculated gland.