

Lepanthes iricolor Luer, sp. nov.

Planta perparva caespitosa, inflorescentia folio ovato reticulato brevior, racemo congesto, floribus parvis multicoloribus, sepalis ovatis breviter acuminatis denticulatis, petalis grandibus transverse oblongis, labelli laminis ovatis appendice parva triangulari ciliata.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 0.5-2.5 cm long, enclosed by 4-6 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, purple-reticulate, ovate, subacute, 7-14 mm long, 5-9 mm wide, the broadly cuneate base contracted into a twisted petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested raceme of successive flowers, up to 3 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 3 mm long, along the back of the leaf; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 0.75 mm long; ovary 1 mm long, narrowly winged; sepals ovate, acute, shortly acuminate, denticulate, connate basally, the dorsal sepal purple with green margins, 2.1 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the lateral sepals oblique, yellow with the midvein red, 2 mm long, 1.1 mm wide; petals orange, transversely oblong, 0.6 mm long, 2 mm wide, obtusely angled on the outer margin at the midvein, the upper lobe oblong, truncate, the lower lobe triangular, obtuse; lip orange, the blades ovate, 1.25 mm long, the apices acute, the bases rounded, glabrous, the connectives broadly cuneate, ciliate, connate to the column above the base, the appendix small, triangular, ciliate; column 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *iricolor*, "with the colors of the rainbow," referring to the multiple colors of the flowers.

Type: *ECUADOR*: NAPO: epiphytic in wet forest near Rio Jatunyacu west of Tena, alt. 600 m, 21 Feb. 1982, *C. Luer & A. Hirtz 6895* (Holotype: SEL).

The multiple, brilliant colors of the flowers of this little species with purple-reticulated leaves are probably variable as they are in other species. The flowers are tiny with denticulate sepals and proportionately large petals.