

ORCHIDACEAE QUAEDAM AMERICANAE

Lepanthes Johnsonii Ames sp. nov. Radices crassae. Caules secundarii trivaginati, monophylli. Vaginae hispidulae, tubulosae. Pedunculi singuli vel bini. Flores purpureotincti, plus minusve quattuor, succedanei, permagni. Sepala cohaerentia, caudata. Petala longe triangularia. Labellum trilobatum; lobi laterales triangulares; lobus medius abbreviatus, oblongus, obtusus. Columna valida, abbreviata.

Roots very fleshy, closely appressed to the substratum. Secondary stems about 1 cm. long, concealed by about three closely appressed elongated hispidulous sheaths, monophyllous. Sheaths 3-4 mm. long, dilated abruptly at the summit into a thickened ring-like hispid rim which is produced on one side into a slender rigid acute point. Leaf 1-1.2 cm. long, 4 mm. wide, elliptical, coriaceous, bilobed, apiculate at the apex, contracted at base into an

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abbreviated slender petiole, conspicuously marginate. Peduncles single or in pairs from the summit of a secondary stem, with the raceme about 1.5 cm. long. Bracts of the inflorescence tubular-infundibuliform. Raceme lax, about 4-flowered. Flowers opening in succession, very delicate in texture, about 2 mm. apart, pink-purple. Sepals united, forming a 3-lobed calyx with the lobes caudate-tipped; lateral sepals or lobes 11 mm. long to base of column, about 7 mm. long to the sinus, free portion triangular-caudate, 4 mm. wide; dorsal sepal or posterior lobe opposite to the laterals 1 cm. long to the base of the column, triangular-caudate, free portion about 3.5 mm. wide. Petals narrowly triangular, acute, 3 mm. long in a line parallel to the dorsal sepal, .75 mm. wide near the point of insertion, rounded on the outer angle nearest the point of insertion. Labellum 3-lobed; lateral lobes much larger than the middle one, similar to the petals, 2 mm. long, .5 mm. wide, rounded at base; middle lobe about .5 mm. long, longer than broad, porrect, obtuse. Column fleshy, short.

A very distinct species among the Central American representatives of the genus, extraordinarily large flowers in conjunction with diminutive vegetative parts giving the plant a characteristic appearance. The united sepals in their relation to one another recall the flowers of *Masdevallia Veitchiana* Reichb. f. *Lepanthes Tuerckheimii* Schltr. is a near ally, but much larger in its vegetative parts with a very different labellum.

GUATEMALA, Department of Alta Verapaz, Chamá, Harry Johnson 420, July 26, 1920. Growing on coffee tree. Flowers pink. 900 feet altitude. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 22739. DUPLICATE TYPE in U. S. Nat. Herb. No. 1081116.)