

***Lepanthes jostii* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named in honor of Louis (Lou) Jost, physicist, biologist and artist of Baños, Ecuador, who discovered this species.

Planta grandis, racemo disticho congesto folio reticulato elliptico abrupte longi-acuminato brevior, sepalis late ovatis leviter brevi-acuminatis, petalis transverse late breviter caudatis glabris, labelli laminis hemisphericis convexis, appendice bilobata distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 19-24 cm long, enclosed by 13-14 slender, acuminate, glabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, elliptical, abruptly acuminate for 3-3.5 cm, 13-15 cm long, 4-4.5 cm wide, the base rounded, abruptly contracted into a petiole ca. 5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a distichous, congested, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 10 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 25 mm long; floral bracts acuminate, 3 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; **sepals** pale yellow, glabrous, subcarinate, broadly ovate, obtuse, slightly shortly acuminate, the dorsal sepal 8 mm long, 7 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 2.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 7 mm long, 5 mm wide, 2-veined; **petals** yellow, suffused with red-purple on the edges, glabrous, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 4 mm wide, the upper lobes obliquely oblong, obtuse, with a short, oblique point, the lower lobes triangular with the apex long-acuminate; **lip** yellow, suffused with purple, bilaminate, the blades glabrous, convex, hemispherical, with subacute ends, 2.5 mm long, covering the column, the connectives broadly cuneate, forming a broad body, connate to the base of the column, the appendix small, deeply bifid, pubescent; **column** 2 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Tungurahua: mountains above Ulba, alt. 2900 m, 17 Oct. 1998, *L. Jost 1137* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19017.

This large species of series *Lepanthes* subsection *Lepanthes* is superficially similar to *L. actias-luna* Luer & Hirtz, *L. athenae* Luer and *L. lloënsis* Luer, all noted for their shortly tailed apices of the lobes of the petals. From all of them, it is distinguished by the broad sepals, glabrous petals with upper lobe shortly tailed and the lower lobe long-tailed, and a lip with the blades hemispherical and a small, bifid appendix.

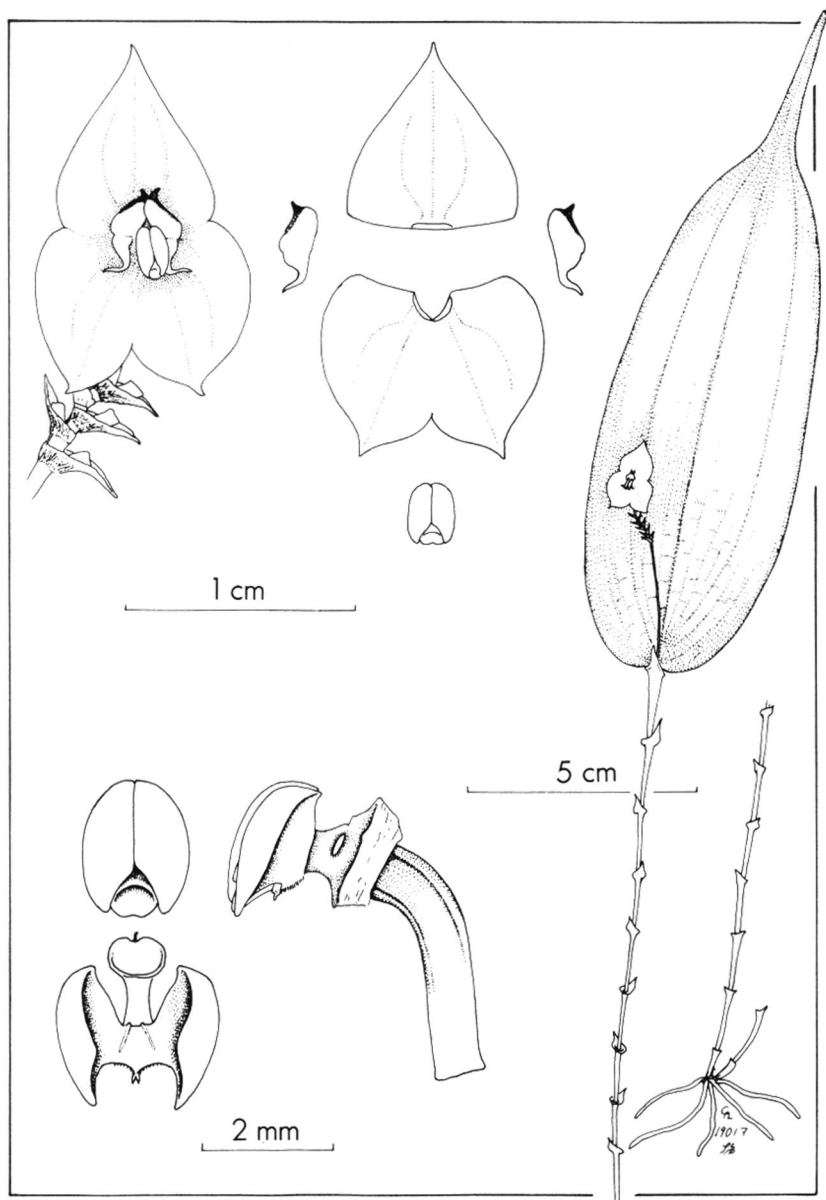


Fig. 299. *Lepanthes jostii*