

**Lepanthes marshana** Luer & Jost, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Marsha Staats of Austin, Texas, benefactor of Louis Jost.

**Planta mediocris, racemo disticho congesto folio longi-acuminato brevior, sepalis denticulatis obtusis subacutisve, petalis transverse bilobis latissimis, lobo superiore falcato, lobo inferiore triangulari, labelli laminae oblongis, corpore lato cum appendice brevi rotundo concavo distinguitur.**

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-6 cm long, enclosed by 7-10 scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect to spreading, coriaceous, ovate, acute, long-acuminate, 3.5-4 cm long, 1.5-1.8 cm wide, the base rounded, abruptly contracted into a petiole 1.5 mm long. Inflorescence a distichous, congested, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 8 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 7-17 mm long; floral bracts 0.75 mm long; pedicels 0.75 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; sepals translucent pale yellow, denticulate, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse or subacute, 3.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.9 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, subacute, minutely acuminate, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1.2 mm; petals orange with the inner edge red, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the upper lobe oblong, angled near the middle, then narrowly acute at the tip, microscopically pubescent, 3 mm long, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, oblique, acute, 2 mm long; lip dark red, bilaminate, the blades oblong, microscopically pubescent, slightly convex, with the ends rounded, 2 mm long, covering the column, the connectives broadly cuneate, forming a broad, thick body, connate to the base of the column, the appendix small, rounded, concave; column 2 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: **Tungurahua**: Cerro Mayordomo, alt. 2300 m, 30 Mar. 1999, *L. Jost 1501* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19155.

Superficially, this species resembles *L. urotepala* Rchb.f., both species characterized by long petals with the upper lobes as long as the dorsal sepal. From the latter, it is distinguished by denticulate sepals, petals with longer lower lobes, and with the upper lobes angled near the middle to suggest the shape of a scimitar. The appendix of *L. urotepala* is bisegmented, while the appendix of *L. marshana* is rounded and concave.

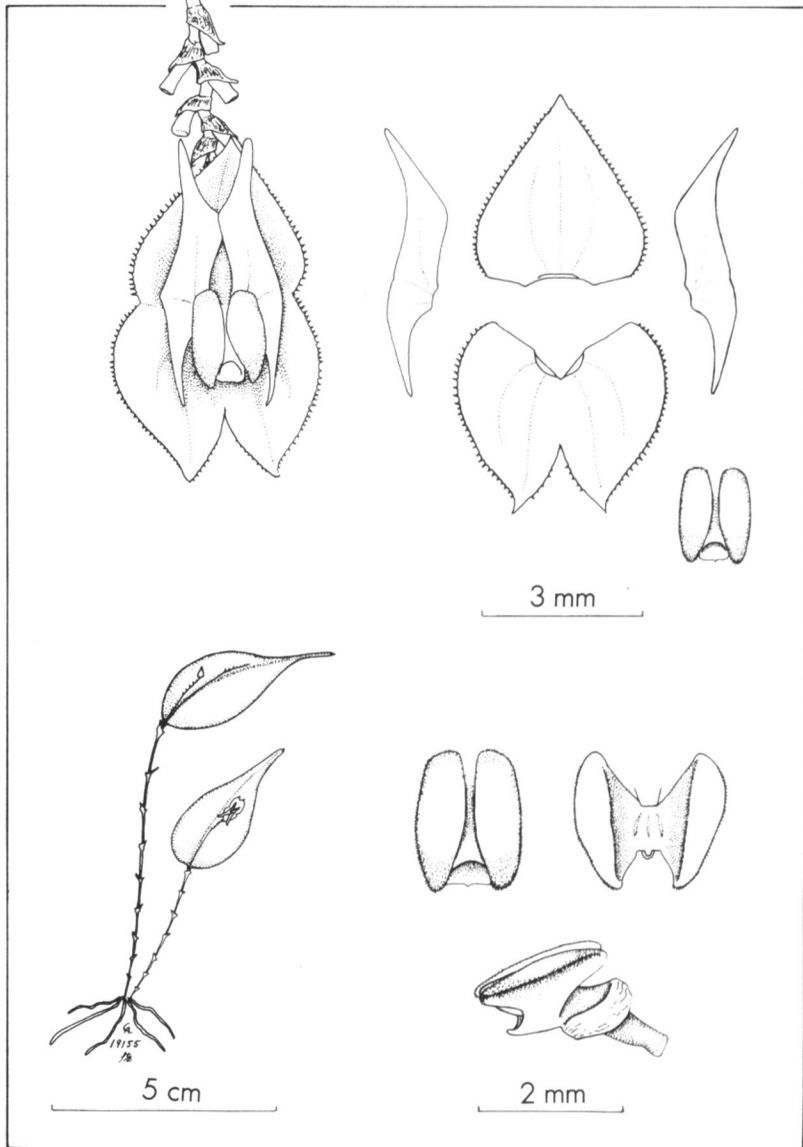


Fig. 300. *Lepanthes marshana*