

Lepanthes menatoi Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.

Planta grangis, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima brevipedicellata folio elliptico breviter acuminato brevior, sepalis acutis, pétalis bilobis, lobo superiore truncato, lobo inferiore anguste triangulari, labelli laminis oblongis convexis parvis marginibus interioribus longiciliatis, appendice oblonga pubescenti.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems stout, erect, 17-24 cm long, enclosed by 11-12 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical, 8-8.5 cm long, 3.7-4 cm wide, the apex subacute, lightly acuminate, the base broadly cuneate into a petiole 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 3 cm long, borne either behind or in front of the leaf by a filiform peduncle up to 3.5 cm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 3.5 mm long; sepals yellow, glabrous, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, 8 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals semilunate, connate 3.5 mm into an ovate synsepal 7.5 mm long, 7 mm wide, the apices subacute, approximate; petals yellow, suffused with red, essentially glabrous, transversely bilobed, 1.25 mm long, 4 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, truncate, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, oblique, acute; lip yellow, suffused with red, the blades oblong, convex, with rounded ends, 1.25 mm long, the surfaces and outer margins glabrous, the inner margins and bases long-ciliate, the connectives narrowly oblong from the bases of the blades, long-ciliate anteriorly, the body originating from the end of the ovary with the column, the sinus broad with a small, oblong, pubescent appendix; column 1 mm long, expanded at the apex, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Named in honor of Don Dino Menato of Chulumani, Bolivia, who discovered and cultivated this species.

Type: Bolivia: La Paz: Prov. of Sud Yungas: without specific locality, cultivated by Dino Menato in Chulumani, flowered in cultivation 26 Jan. 1984, C. Luer 9428 (Holotype: SEL).

This large, yellow-flowered species is yet another in the widespread elata-monitor complex. Lepanthes menatoi, however, is easily identified by the small oblong lobes of the lip with long-ciliate, inner margins, the hairs spreading over the column.