



123. *LEPANTHES MICRONYX*
 Luer & R. Escobar

123. *LEPANTHES MICRONYX* Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva, ramicaulibus debilis gracillimis, inflorescentia racemosa congesta disticha folio anguste elliptico longissime acuminato brevior, sepalis late ovatis obtusis, petalis transversis bilobis, lobo superiore oblongo, lobo

inferiore anguste triangulari, labelli laminis minutissimis ovatis connectivis cuneatis, appendice unguiculiformi.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Antioquia: epiphytic in cloud forest north of the pass between Urrao and Carmen de Atrato, alt. 2700 m, 30 May 1995, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar, L. Moreno de Posada, B. López, F. López & G. Arteaga 17648. (Holotype: MO).

ETIMOLOGIA: Del griego *micronyx*, "una pequeña garra", refiriéndose al apéndice.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *micronyx*, "a tiny claw," referring to the appendix.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls very slender, weak, erect, 7-9 cm long, enclosed by 12-14 microscopically scabrous, tightly fitting, lepanthiform sheaths with acuminate apices. **Leaf** spreading, thinly coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, long-acuminate, 25-42 mm long, 7-12 mm wide, the base cuneate, contracted into a petiole less than 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 5 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 5-20 mm long; floral bract 1-1.5 mm long; pedicel 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** translucent yellow, membranous, carinate, widely spread, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, 2 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.4 mm, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, obtuse, 1.75 mm long, 1 mm wide, bare connate at the base; **petals** yellow-green, microscopically cellular, transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, truncate, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, acute; **lip** yellow, bilaminar, the blades microscopically cellular, ovate, 0.6 mm long, rounded at the bases, acute at the apices, the connectives narrowly cuneate, the body narrow, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, with a minute, decurved, glabrous, talon-like appendix, cleft centrally; **column** 0.75 mm long, the anther dorsal and the stigma apical.

Esta especie es aparentemente endémica en un paso de montaña en la Cordillera Occidental de Colombia. Se caracteriza por un ramicaule débil, muy delgado, con una hoja largamente acuminada. Los atestados racimos nacen encima de la hoja, con frecuencia dos simultáneamente, con pedúnculos desiguales como se observa en la común *L. mucronata* Lindl. Las flores de *L. micronyx* son muy pequeñas, con los sépalos de dos milímetros o menos de longitud. Los pétalos son transversalmente bilobulados con los lóbulos superiores oblongos y los inferiores triangulares. Las ovadas láminas del labelo son diminutas, de 0.6 milímetros de largo, considerablemente más cortas que la columna en medio de ellas. El apéndice está conformado como una microscópica, recurvada garra.

This species is apparently endemic in a mountain pass in the Western Cordillera of Colombia. It is characterized by a weak, very slender ramicaul with a long-acuminate leaf. The congested racemes are borne on top of the leaf, often two simultaneously with unequal peduncles, as is seen in the common *L. mucronata* Lindl. The flowers of *L. micronyx* are very small with the sepals two millimeters or less long. The petals are transversely bilobed with the upper lobes oblong and the lower lobes triangular. The ovate blades of the lip are minute, 0.6 millimeters long, considerably smaller than the column they flank. The appendix is shaped like a microscopic, decurved talon.