

***Lepanthes miraculum* Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.**

Planta mediocris, racemo laxe plurifloro foliis ellipticis multilongiore, floribus grandibus, sepalis erosis breviter acuminatis, petalis bilobatis ciliatis, lobo superiore minimo acuto reflexo, lobo inferiore grandi falcato acuto, labelli laminis breviter ciliatis oblongis, sinu obtuso cum appendice lata membranacea retusa.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots relatively coarse. Secondary stems slender, erect to suberect, 3-9.5 cm long, enclosed by 6-9 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths with markedly dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, acute, 2-3 cm long, 0.9-1.1 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2-4 mm long. Inflorescence a loose, subflexuous, distantly successively flowered raceme up to 10 cm long including the slender peduncle 2.5-4 cm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long, ciliate; pedicel 2.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long, papillose-winged; sepals dark red, the margins erose, the carinae serrate, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, acuminate, 10.5 mm long, 6.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 3 mm; the lateral sepals connate 5 mm into a bifid lamina 11.5 mm long, 8.5 mm wide, shortly pubescent, concave basally, the apices ovate, acute, shortly acuminate; petals red, ciliate, bilobed, the upper lobe 1 mm long, acute, reflexed, the lower lobe falcate, acute, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, long-ciliate; lip bright purple, the blades oblong, 1.75 mm long, glabrous except for short cilia at the narrowly obtuse apices, the bases rounded and continuous with the cuneate connectives connate to the column near the middle below the stigma, the sinus obtuse with a broad, membranous, retuse, ciliate appendix in contact with a clavate appendage from the stigma; column 2 mm long, the apical half dilated with the dorsal anther and ventral stigma, the shaft extremely slender.

Etymology: From the Latin *miraculum*, "a marvel," referring to the grotesque features of the flowers.

Type; *BOLIVIA*: COCHABAMBA: Prov. of Chapare: epiphytic in cloud forest between Cochabamba and Villa Tunari, alt. 2500 m, 22 Jan. 1980, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 4906 (Holotype: SEL); same area, alt. 2600 m, 26 Nov. 1978, C. Luer, F. Fuchs et al. 3490 (SEL); same area, collected by B. Wuerstle, alt. 2700 m, 13 Jan. 1981, C. Luer 5662 (SEL); Pampa Tambo, alt. 2800 m, 24 Dec. 1979, R. Vásquez 234 (SEL).

This remarkable species produces large, dark red flowers in loose racemes. The sepals are erose, shortly pubescent and shortly acuminate. The lower lobes of the ciliate petals flank the column, while the minute upper lobes twist behind. The lobes of the lip are narrowly oblong and cover the column, the shaft of which is very slender like that of *L. vespa*. The weblike appendix is in contact with a clavate process from the stigma like that seen in the Ecuadorian *L. contingens*.