

***Lepanthes monitor* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia folio oblongo acuminato brevior, racemo congesto, sepalis glabris acutis, petalis transverse bilobatis, labelli laminis ovatis convexis glabris, appendice parvula pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems slender, erect, 8-25 cm long, enclosed by 9-14 close, minutely ciliate lepanthform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, oblong-ovate, acute, acuminate, 6.5-12 cm long, 1.9-3 cm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 3 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively flowered raceme up to 30 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 25 mm long behind the leaf; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals yellow-white, glabrous, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, 5 mm long, 2.6 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals 5 mm long, connate 2.5 mm into an ovate, bifid lamina 4 mm wide, the acute apices shortly acuminate; petals white with purple margins, transversely bilobed, 1.25 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the upper lobe broadly oblong-falcate, obtuse, the lower lobe smaller, narrowed to an oblong, rounded apex; lip white with purple margins, the blades ovate, convex, 1.5 mm long, glabrous, the apices narrowly rounded, the bases rounded, the connectives short, cuneate, connate to the base of the column, the sinus rounded with a small, rounded, pubescent appendix; column 1.5 mm long, protruding from between the blades of the lip, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *monitor*, "a reminder," referring to the morphological features reminiscent of *L. elata* Rchb. f. and its relatives.

Type: *ECUADOR*: LOJA: epiphytic in cloud forest south of Yangana, alt. 1400 m, 3 March 1982, C. Luer, D. D'Alessandro & S. Dalström 7096 (Holotype: SEL); NAPO: south of Baeza, alt. 1900 m, 20 Feb. 1982, C. Luer & A. Hirtz 6863 (SEL); ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: near Km 41 between Loja and Zamora, alt. 1500 m, 3 Nov. 1982, C. Luer, R. Escobar & D. D'Alessandro 8275 (SEL).

This large species seems to be the austral counterpart of *L. elata* Rchb. f. from Central America and northern Colombia. The leaves of large specimens of *L. monitor* are oblong-ovate, not broadly cordate as they are in large specimens of *L. elata*. Small specimens of both species have similar leaves. The flowers of the two species are also similar in size, shape and colors, but the appendix is pedunculate and narrowly hinged in the sinus of the lip in *L. elata*, while the appendix in *L. monitor* is a broad, triangular membrane across the sinus.