

*Lepanthes mystax* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, foliis suborbiculatis breviter acuminatis patentibus racemo congestissimo longioribus, sepalis ovatis, petalis grandibus ciliatis transverse bilobis, labelli lamina ellipticis divergentibus marginibus interioribus longissime ciliatis, appendice ligulata, stigmata bi-auriculata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 4-12 cm long, enclosed by 5-10 close lepanthiform sheaths, minutely ciliate on the narrow ostia. Leaf more or less spreading, thinly coriaceous, broadly ovate to suborbicular, 2.5-4.5 cm long, 1.5-2.7 cm wide, the apex abruptly acuminate, acute, the rounded base abruptly contracted into a twisted petiole 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence an extremely congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne below the leaf by a filiform peduncle 10-12 mm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals yellow, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, connate 1 mm, the subacute apices in apposition, together forming a synsepal 3 mm long, 3.75 mm wide; petals orange, ciliate, minutely pubescent, transversely oblong, bilobed, 1.75 mm long, 5 mm wide, the upper lobe suborbicular, the lower lobes obliquely triangular, obtuse; lip red, the blades elliptical, 1.25 mm long, with rounded ends, the apices diverging, the inner margins with long, straight, lavender hairs over the column, the connectives broadly cuneate, connate to the column above the base, the appendix pubescent, ligulate; column 1.25 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma transversely bilobed, the lobes auriculate, lateral.

Etymology: From the Greek *mystax*, "a moustache," in reference to the long-ciliated lobes of the lip.

Type: COSTA RICA: SAN JOSE: epiphytic in cloud forest below La Georgina, alt. 2850 m, 20 Sept. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & K. Walter 4237 (Holotype: SEL); CARTAGO: forest along road to Cerro de la Muerte, alt. 2530 m, 10 July 1983, R. Escobar & K. Anderson 2759 (SEL).

This species with round, shortly acuminate leaves is remarkable for the small flowers with seemingly over-sized petals, and a lip with diverging, long-ciliate blades. The straight, purple hairs point diagonally inward, the longest toward the apex, together forming a screenlike cover for the column. The stigma is transversely bilobed with the lobes projecting laterally, reminiscent of the genus *Stelis* Sw.