

Lepanthes nymphalis Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec *L. chameleone* Ames similis, sed sepalo dorsali erecto leviter concavo, sepalis lateralibus glabris et labelli laminis longiciliatis differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems ascending to erect, comparatively stout, 3-13.5 cm long, enclosed by 8-16 long-ciliate lepanthiform sheaths, occasionally producing a plantlet at the apex. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 2.5-4.5 cm long, 1.2-2.4 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2-4 mm long. Inflorescence a dense, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 5 cm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 2.5-4 cm long; floral bract 2 mm long; pedicel 2.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long, sparsely spiculate; dorsal sepal widespread, yellow, suffused with purple along the midvein, glabrous, denticulate, ovate, shallowly concave, acute, long-acuminate, 22 mm long, 4 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm; lateral sepals red-brown, edged in yellow, glabrous, denticulate, narrowly ovate-triangular, attenuate, connate 4 mm, 23 mm long, 6.25 mm wide together; petals yellow, minutely pubescent, transversely oblong with rounded ends, 0.75 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, with a minute apiculum on the outer margin between the lobes, the upper lobe shorter and broader than the lower lobe; lip red-brown, the blades elliptical with narrowly rounded ends, 1.6 mm long, long-ciliate, the connectives cuneate, connate to the column near the middle, the appendix pubescent, slender, ligulate, with an apical gland; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *nymphalis*, "of a nymph, a mythological woodland deity," referring to the dark, mossy, wooded habitat.

Type: COSTA RICA: HEREDIA: epiphytic in cloud forest, Alto Gallito, alt. 2000 m, 21 June 1981, C. Luer & A. Luer 6356 (Holotype: SEL).

This species is closely allied to *L. chameleon*, but the flowers of *L. nymphalis* are widely spread with a shallowly concave dorsal sepal. The flowers of *L. chameleon* are not widely spread, the deeply concave dorsal sepal curving over the pubescent lateral sepals. The lateral sepals of *L. nymphalis* are glabrous, but the sepals of both species are minutely denticulate. The blades of the lip are long-ciliate in *L. nymphalis*. Other minor differences exist in the sepaline tails and petals.