

Lepanthes orchestris Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris plus minusve horizontalis, foliis ellipticis acuminatis pendentibus racemo secundo densifloro duplolongioribus, sepalis ovatis caudatis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis oblongis, appendice apiculata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, more or less horizontal, 4-7 cm long, enclosed by 8-10 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths with thin, markedly dilated ostia. Leaf more or less pendent, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, acute, acuminate, 4-5.5 cm long, 1.2-1.8 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a dense, secund, successively flowered raceme up to 15 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 5-15 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 2.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals red-brown with yellow margins, the margins minutely and distantly denticulate, the blades ovate, carinate, acute, acuminate into short, slender tails, the dorsal sepal 6.25 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals 7.5 mm long, 2.3 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; petals yellow, suffused with red, transversely oblong with rounded ends, 1 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, broadly angled near the middle on the outer margin, the upper lobe narrowly oblong, 3 mm long, the ends rounded, microscopically ciliate at the apices, the connectives short, cuneate, connate to the column above the middle, the appendix small, subquadrate with an equally long apiculum in contact with a stigmatic process; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek *orchestris*, "a dancer," referring to the dainty, tailed flowers.

Type: *BOLIVIA*: LA PAZ: Prov. of Nor Yungas: epiphytic in cloud forest west of Coroico, alt. 2550 m, 27 Jan. 1983, C. Luer, J. Luer R. Vásquez & E. Besse 8610 (Holotype: SEL).

This pretty species may be recognized by the pendent, purple leaves with short racemes of graceful, caudate flowers; the narrowly transversely oblong petals; and the narrowly oblong blades of the lip with the apiculum of the small appendix in contact with a process from the stigma.