

Lepanthes plumifera Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio ovato acuminato dimidio brevior, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque transverse ovatis, petalis transverse ellipticis bobis acutis, labelli laminis fusiformibus, appendice magna pilosa protrudenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 6-9 cm long, enclosed by 6-8 close, minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect, thinly coriaceous, ovate, acuminate, 4-5.5 cm long, 2.2-2.5 cm wide, the round base abruptly contracted into a petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle up to 10 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long, mucronate; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals yellow, minutely denticulate, the dorsal sepal transversely ovate, subacute, 2.66 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate 1.5 mm into a transversely ovate lamina 2.8 mm long, 3.2 mm wide, the apices acute, oblique, free for 0.66 mm; petals orange, suffused with purple, transversely bilobed, minutely pubescent, 1 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the upper lobe triangular-oblong, acute, the lower lobe shorter, triangular, acute; lip orange, suffused with purple, the blades fusiform, 1 mm long with acute ends, embracing the column, the connectives obliquely cuneate from the apical halves of the blades, each with a rounded lobe below the attachment to the under surface of the column below the middle, the appendix comparatively large, pilose, triangular, acute, protruding forward beyond the apices of the blades; column 0.75 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology; From the Latin pluma, "feather," and -fer, "bearing," referring to the featherlike appendix.

Type: Ecuador: Prov. of El Oro: epiphytic in cloud forest west of Pinas, alt. 1000 m, 25 Sept. 1980, C. Luer, J. Luer, C. H. Dodson et al. 5542 (Holotype: SEL).

The flowers of this species are very small with broad, denticulate sepals and pointed petals. The narrow blades of the lip hug the column, and protruding from beneath is the featherlike appendix.