

Lepanthes prora Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva, inflorescentia foliis orbiculatis brevior, racemo congesto disticho, sepalis triangularibus denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobis pubescentibus, lobis triangularibus acutis, labelli laminis pubescentibus oblongis, appendice crassa cymbiformi.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 15-25 mm long, enclosed by 4-5 dark brown, microscopically ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suborbicular, the blade 11 mm long and 10 mm wide to 22 mm long and 19 mm wide, the apex rounded, the base rounded, contracted into a petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme 3 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 4-5 mm long; floral bract muricate, 1 mm long; pedicel 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals light yellow, ovate-triangular, acute, minutely denticulate, low-carinate-denticulate along the veins externally, the dorsal-sepal 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate 0.75 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals connate 1 mm, 3.75 mm long, 2 mm wide; petals yellow, suffused with red, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lobes triangular, acute, the upper lobe twice longer than the lower lobe; lip yellow, minutely pubescent, the blades oblong, 1.25 mm long, the apices acute, curved under the column, the bases rounded, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body connected to the base of the column, the appendix stout, cymbiform, pubescent; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek prora, "the bow of a boat," referring to the shape of the appendix.

Type: Panama: Prov. of Panama: epiphytic in cloud forest, Cerro Jefe, alt. 900 m, 1 Dec. 1983, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Maduro & H. Butcher 9207 (Holotype: SEL).

This species is characterized by round leaves; a short inflorescence; minutely denticulate sepals; pubescent, pointed petals; and a thick, pubescent appendix that resembles the prow of a boat.