

Lepanthes psyche Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, foliis crassis ellipticis breviter acuminatis inflorescentia longioribus, racemo congesto disticho, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque late ovatis, petalis grandibus cum dente marginali, lobo superiore suborbiculato glabro, labelli laminis agglutinatiss, appendice ligulata convexa cum parte terminali concava.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect to horizontal or pendent, 4-6 cm long, enclosed by 4-5 close, minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect to drooping, thickly coriaceous, more or less concave, often coppery in color, more or less suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, 3-5.5 cm long, 1.5-3.5 mm wide, the apex shortly acuminate, acute, the base cuneate into a petiole 2-5 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous raceme up to 10 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 15-20 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; sepals yellow to tan, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, 3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate 1.5 mm into a transversely ovate lamina 2.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the apices acute; petals orange to orange-brown, glabrous or microscopically cellular, transversely bilobed, 1.75 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, 4-veined, with a short tooth on the outer margin between the lobes, the upper lobe broadly elliptical to suborbicular, the lower lobe half as large, oblong, obtuse; lip rose to purple, the blades obovate, 2 mm long, agglutinated medially over the column, the apices broadly obtuse, the bases narrowly obtuse, the connectives short, cuneate, connate to the column above the base, the appendix in the acute sinus, pubescent, ligulate, nearly 1 mm long, convex, with a concave apical segment with a bilobulate apex; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek psyche, "a butterfly," in reference to the large petals.

Type: Panama: Prov. of Chiriqui: epiphytic in small trees near Volcan, "La Cordillera," alt. 1300 m, 9 Dec. 1983, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Maduro & H. Butcher 9317 (Holotype: SEL); same area, C. Luer et al. 9312 (SEL); between Concepcion and Volcan, alt. ca. 1000 m, 9. Sept. 1976, C. Luer & H. Butcher 1158 (SEL).

Vegetatively this species is very similar to that of L. setos. In mature plants, the thick, heavy, concave, coppery leaves cause the stems to bend or hang from their perch. The small flowers are distinguished by the large, overlapping petals with a small marginal tooth. The toothed petals and the agglutinated blades of the lip indicate some relationship with the South American L. mucronata Lindl.