



No. 103 - ***LEPANTHES RICAURTENSIS***
Luer & Escobar

No. 103 - ***LEPANTHES RICAURTENSIS*** Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva debilis caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta disticha folio anguste ovato acuminato brevior, sepalis late ovatis obtusis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore oblongo truncato, lobo inferiore triangulari, labelli laminis oblongis, appendice late triangulari.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls suberect, slender, 1.5-5 cm long, enclosed by 5-9 microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, 2.5-4.5 cm long including a petiole 1 mm long, the blade 7-9 mm wide, the apex acute, acuminate, conspicuously tridentate, cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence racemose, a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme, up to 5 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 15 mm long; floral bracts oblique, muricate, 1 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals yellow-green, glabrous, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, 2.3 mm long, 2.3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, connate into a transversely ovate, bifid lamina with the apices obtuse, 2.3 mm long, 2.8 mm wide, 4-veined; petals yellow-green, suffused with rose, transversely bilobed, 0.8 mm long, 2.1 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, truncate with the margin minutely irregular, the lower lobe triangular, acute; lip green, bilaminate, the blades glabrous (at most cellular), oblong with rounded ends, 1 mm long, the connectives cuneate, the body broad, thick, concave, connate to the base of the column, the sinus broad, the appendix triangular, protruding from below the margin; column 0.8 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Narino: epiphytic in forest near Ricaurte, alt. 1600 m, 3 Nov. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4622 (Holotype: SEL).

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the town of Ricaurte in the department of Narino where this species occurs.

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada por el pueblo de Ricaurte en el departamento de Narino en donde ocurre esta especie.

This weak, little species is superficially similar to the common *Lepanthes mucronata* Lindley. Tiny flowers with green, irregularly truncate petals are borne on the upper surface of narrowly ovate leaves. The lips of the two species, however, are profoundly different. Instead of a large, oblong, concave appendix beneath thin, membranous blades of the lip, the appendix of *L. ricaurtensis* is short and triangular, and the blades of the lip are comparatively thick.

Esta pequeña y débil especie es superficialmente parecida a la común *Lepanthes mucronata* Lindley. Flores diminutas con pétalos verdes, irregularmente truncados, nacen en la parte superior de hojas angostamente ovadas. Sin embargo, los labelos de las dos especies son profundamente diferentes. En vez de un apéndice largo, oblongo y cóncavo debajo de unas láminas membranáceas y delgadas del labelo, el apéndice de *L. ricaurtensis* es corto y triangular, y las láminas del labelo son comparativamente gruesas.