

***Lepanthes ruthiana* Luer & Jost, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for Ruth Ann Moore, wife of bird-recorder John V. Moore of San Jose, California.

Planta mediocris grandisve, racemo congesto folio late elliptico abrupte longi-acuminato brevior, sepalis latissimis obtusis breviter acuminatis, petalis transverse late lobatis obtusis pubescentibus, labelli laminis tenuibus oblongis ad basim decurvatis distinguitur.

Plant medium to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 11-13 cm long, enclosed by 12-13 slender, acuminate, glabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, broadly elliptical, abruptly acuminate for 1.5 cm, 5-6 cm long, 2.8-3.4 cm wide, the base broadly subcordate, abruptly contracted into a petiole 3-5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 15 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 10-15 mm long; floral bracts acuminate, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 2.5-3 mm long; ovary twisted, 1.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, glabrous, subcarinate, transversely ovate, obtuse, shortly acuminate, the dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 4 mm long, 3 mm wide, 2-veined; **petals** yellow, heavily suffused with red-purple, shortly ciliate-pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, the lobes obliquely oblong, obtuse, the upper lobe broader than the lower lobe; **lip** white, suffused with magenta, bilaminate, the blades microscopically pubescent, thin, more or less oblong, channeled medially, obtuse, ca. 1.75 mm long, covering the column, with the posterior ends decurved, the connectives broad, forming a broad, concave body, connate to the base of the column, the appendix oblong, pubescent; **column** 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Morona-Santiago: near Cumanda, alt. 1500m, 17 Aug. 1998, *L. Jost 1096* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19016.

This species of series *Lepanthes* subsection *Lepanthes* is without immediate relatives. The broad leaves, abruptly acuminate, and subcordate at the base are borne by glabrous sheaths. The flower is borne in a congested raceme behind the leaf. The sepals are very broad and obtuse, and the petals are pubescent and bilobed. The lip is most distinctive with the nearly conduplicate blades with recurved bases covering the column. The body is broad with an oblong, pubescent appendix.

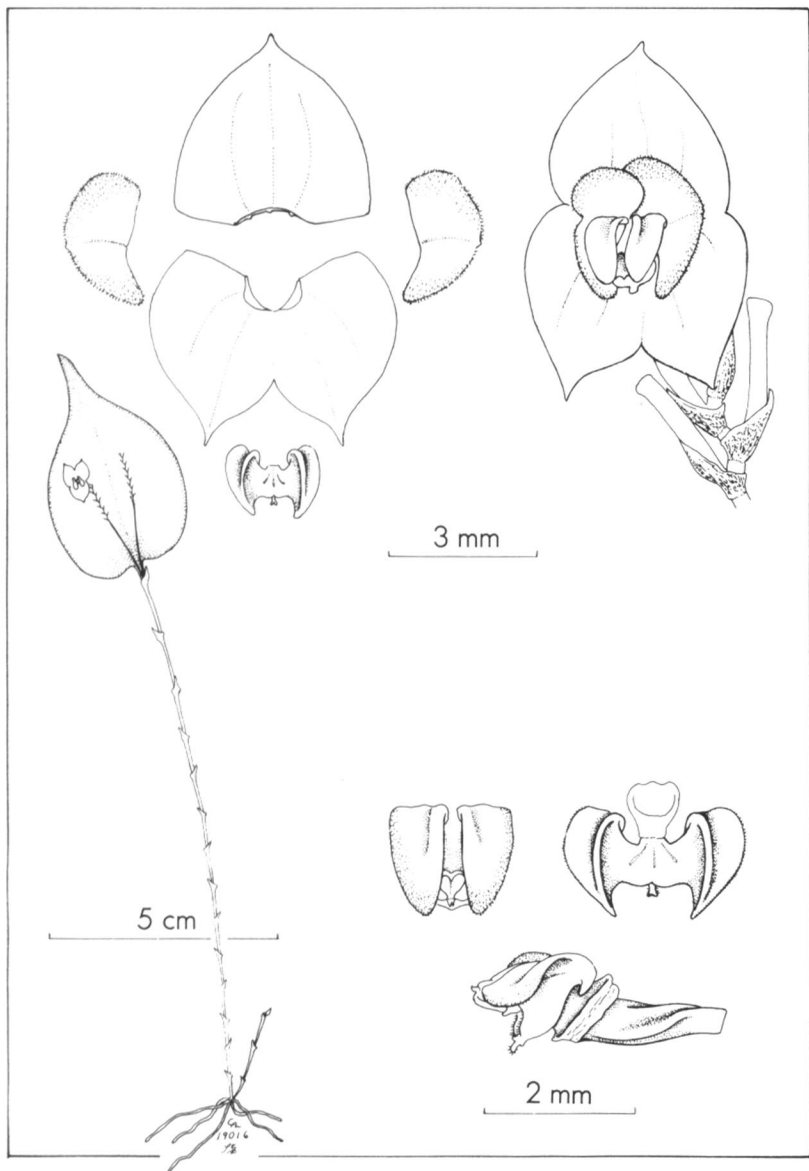


Fig. 303. *Lepanthes ruthiana*