



No. 104 - ***LEPANTHES RUTRUM***
Luer & Escobar

No. 104 - *LEPANTHES RUTRUM* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta disticha folio transverse cordato brevior, sepalis ovatis subacutis glabris, petalis magnis transverse bilobis, lobis triangularibus apicibus acutis incurvis superiore majore, labello bilaminato, laminis anguste oblongis, connectivis cuneatis, appendice extus oblonga crassa retusa.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 7-12 cm long, enclosed by 9-11 closely appressed, microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, transversely cordate, obtuse, slightly acuminate, 3-4 cm long, 3-4 cm wide, the bilobed base abruptly contracted into a petiole 1-2 mm long. Inflorescence a dense, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 5 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 8-15 mm long; floral bracts pubescent, 1-1.5 mm long; pedicels 2-2.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals yellow, carinate, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, 3.75 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.25 mm to form a flat flower, the lateral sepals ovate, obtuse, oblique, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm; petals orange with

red margins, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 4.75 mm wide, 3-veined, the lobes triangular-subfalcate, with the acute apices incurved, the upper lobe larger than the lower lobe; lip bilaminar, with the blades deep purple, pink toward the apices, microscopically ciliate, narrowly oblong, 2 mm long, the apices acute, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, thick, connate to the base of the column, the sinus broad with the appendix external, oblong, thick, oblong, arcuate, retuse, short-pubescent, with a tuft of long hairs beneath; column 2 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Valle del Cauca: old road to Buenaventura, El Queremal, alt. 1350 m, 12 May 1989, *R. Escobar, W. & H. Königer & E. Valencia 4005* (Holotype: MO; Isotype: JAUM), C. Luer illustr. 14921; same locality, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquideas 22 Feb. 1994, *R. Escobar 5469* (JAUM).

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *rutrum*, "a spade," referring to the appearance of the leaf.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *rutrum*, "pala", en alusión al aspecto de la hoja.

Vegetatively, this species is distinct. The slender ramicauls, clad in tightly fitting sheaths, bear a relatively large, transversely cordate leaf with an obtuse, slightly acuminate apex. The base of the leaf is deeply bilobed. The leaf is more or less spreading, and it bears the short, congested raceme on top. The small flowers are disappointingly similar to many others that are borne in short, crowded, distichous racemes. The sepals are obtuse; the petals are comparatively large with triangular lobes; and the blades of the lip are oblong. Beneath the short, thick appendix, located on the external surface of the body, there is a tuft of long hairs.

La especie posee características vegetativas distintivas. Los ramicaules, delgados y revestidos de vainas apretadas, producen una hoja relativamente grande, transversalmente cordata, con ápice obtuso y ligeramente acuminado. La hoja es profundamente bilobulada en la base, y más o menos patente, llevando en la cara superior el racimo, corto y densifloro. Decepciona el parecido de las pequeñas flores con tantas otras propias de racimos cortos, densos y dísticos. Los sépalos son obtusos; los pétalos comparativamente grandes, con lóbulos triangulares; y las láminas del labelo oblongas. Hay un copete de pelos largos debajo del apéndice, corto y grueso, que se presenta en la superficie externa del cuerpo.