

**Lepanthes scolops** Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.

Planta parva vel mediocris, racemo laxo fractiflexo folio elliptico subaequilongio, sepalis libris attenuatis spiculatis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis ovatis, sinu connectivorum protuberanti rotundo, appendice parva pubescenti.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 3-10 cm long, enclosed by 6-8 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths with markedly dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical-ovate, acute, 21-35 mm long including the petiole 2-3 mm long, 9-13 mm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a loose, fractiflex, successively flowered raceme up to 35 mm long including the filiform peduncle ca. 10 mm long, approaching the leaf in length; floral bract 1.5 mm long, spiculate; pedicel 1.5-2 mm long; ovary 1.75 mm long, papillose; sepals light green suffused with red, or brown, widely spread, free to near the base, carinate-spiculate externally, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acute, acuminate, 7.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lateral sepals narrowly triangular, concave with narrowly involute margins, acute, acuminate, 8 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined; petals yellow to brown, transversely oblong, 1 mm long, 4 mm wide, the lobes narrowly obtuse, slightly curved; lip yellow, suffused with red, cellular-pubescent, the blades ovate, 1.3 mm long, shortly obtuse at the apex, rounded at the base, the connectives broad, curved forward with a protuberant, rounded sinus, cleft centrally, with the appendix a minute, pubescent lobule at the apex, connate to the column above the base; column 2.75 mm long, the clavate apex protruding beyond the lip, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology: From the Greek *skolops*, "a thorn, or anything pointed," referring to the long, pointed spiculate sepals.

Type: *BOLIVIA*: COCHABAMBA: Prov. of Chapare: epiphytic in cloud forest between Cochabamba and Villa Tunari, alt. 2650 m, 9 Feb. 1980, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 5187 (Holotype: SEL); LA PAZ: Prov. of Sud Yungas: epiphytic in cloud forest along the Rio Unduavi, alt. 2450 m, 6 Feb. 1980, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez & M. Manon 5141 (SEL).

The flowers of this species are similar to those of *L. falcata*, but the laminae of the lip of *L. scolops* are well-developed and ovate; the connectives are also well-developed with a prominent, protruding sinus with a minute, pubescent appendix.