

Lepanthes staatsiana Luer & Jost, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Glenn Staats of Austin, Texas, benefactor of Louis Jost.

Planta mediocris, racemo disticho congesto folio late elliptico longi-acuminato brevior, sepalis glabris acutissimis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore triangulari, lobo inferiore triangulari obtuso, labelli lamina oblongis, corporibus cuneatis cum appendice elongata bifida pubescenti distinguitur.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-7 cm long, enclosed by 7-11, dilated, ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical, obtuse, abruptly long-acuminate, 3-5 cm long including the attenuate apex, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, the base rounded, abruptly contracted into a petiole 3 mm long. Inflorescence a distichous, congested, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 10 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 8-10 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long; pedicels 0.75 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals translucent white, entire, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, 6 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, subacute, acuminate, 6 mm long, 4.75 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1.5 mm; petals microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 1-veined, the upper lobe suffused with red-purple, narrowly triangular, narrowly obtuse, 2.5 mm long, the lower lobe golden yellow, broadly triangular, obtuse, 1 mm long; lip yellow, suffused with red-purple on margins, bilaminate, the blades oblong, microscopically pubescent, flat, with the apices narrowly obtuse, the bases rounded, 2.25 mm long, covering the column, the connectives broadly cuneate, forming a broad body, connate to the base of the column, the appendix small, narrowly linear, minutely bifid, finely pubescent; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: **Tungurahua**: Río Blanco watershed, alt. 2600 m, 14 June 1999, *L. Jost 1696* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19235.

Vegetatively, the broad leaves abruptly long-acuminate at the tip, resemble those of *L. pelyx* Luer & Hirtz, and the broad, sharply acuminate, diverging lateral sepals resemble those of the large *L. actias-luna* Luer & Hirtz. The narrowly triangular upper lobes of the petals are erect and much longer than the lower lobes. The blades on the lip are oblong, overlying the column. The finely pubescent appendix is minute, linear and microscopically bifid.

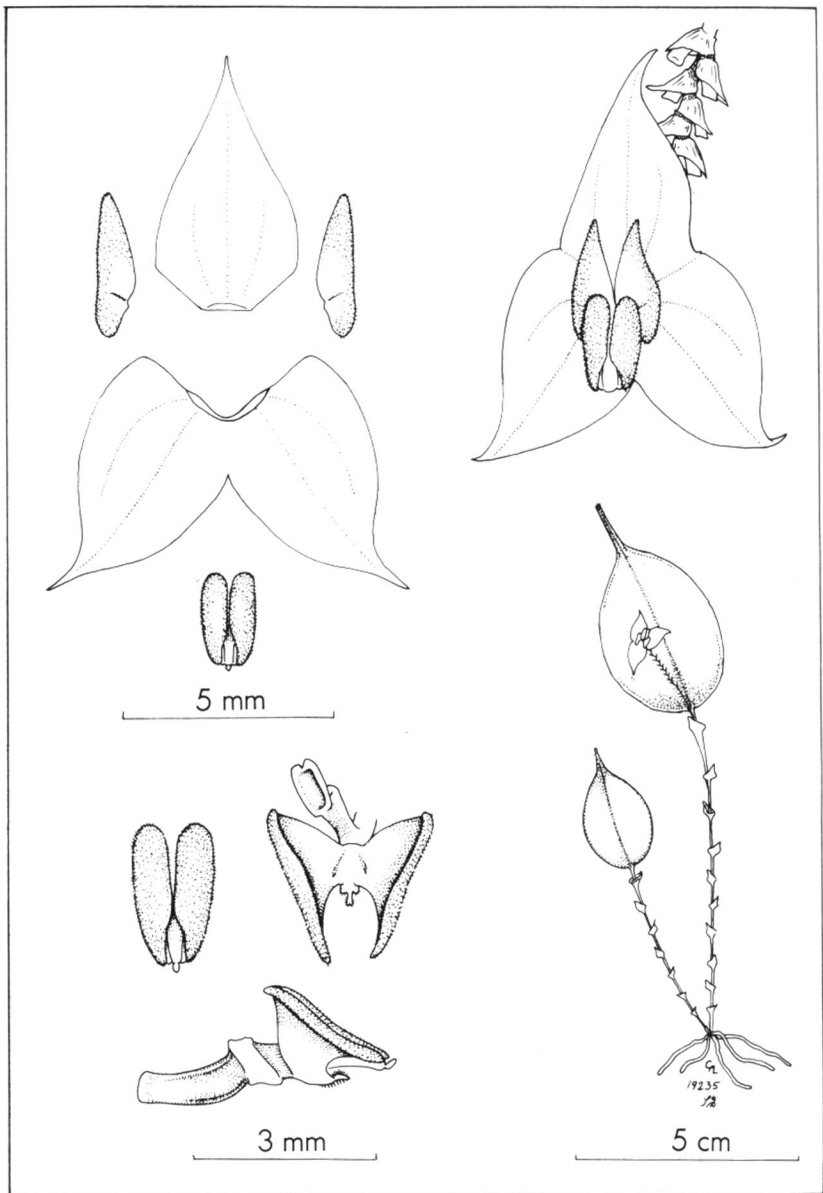


Fig. 304. *Lepanthes staatsiana*