

***Lepanthes vasquezii* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta mediocris, racemo laxe paucifloro foliis ellipticis multilongiore, sepalo dorsali ovato concavo longiacuminato, synsepalo triangulari angustiore, lobis petalorum inaequalibus lobo superiore late ovato majore, labelli laminis ellipticis obtusis pubescentibus, appendice anguste sigmoidea.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 5-9 cm long, enclosed by 5-7 close, glabrous to microscopically scabrous lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, 3.5-4 cm long including the 3-4 mm long petiole, 1.8-2.2 cm wide, lightly suffused with purple beneath, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a weak, loose, secund, few-flowered raceme 13-18 cm long including the slender peduncle, 2-3 flowers open simultaneously; floral bract 2.5 mm long; pedicel 5-6 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long, costate; sepals light green, suffused with brown centrally, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acute, long-acuminate, 16 mm long, 6 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals connate to about the middle into a narrowly triangular, acute lamina 19 mm long, 4 mm wide, the attenuate apices approximate; petals dark green, minutely pubescent, unequally bilobed, 1.75 mm long, 5 mm wide, the upper lobe broadly ovate, rounded, the lower lobe much smaller, narrowly oblong, obtuse; lip blue-green, minutely pubescent, the blades elliptical with rounded ends, 1.6 mm long, the inner margins ciliate, the connectives short, from the bases of the blades, connate to the column above the middle, the appendix pubescent, narrowly oblong-sigmoid; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Names in honor of Roberto Vásquez Ch., investigator and artist of orchids of Bolivia.

Type: *BOLIVIA*: LA PAZ: Prov. of Inquisivi: epiphytic in cloud forest between Inquisivi and Circuata, alt. 2550 m, 27 Jan. 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez & E. Besse 5801 (Holotype: SEL).

The long, few-flowered raceme of widely gaping, narrow flowers of this species is reminiscent of the Colombian *L. ionoptera* Rchb. f. The dark green petals have a large, hairy, earlike upper lobe, and the blue-green blades of the lip obscure the sigmoid-shaped appendix.