

Lepanthes versicolor Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris vel grandis, caulibus secundariis longis gracilibus, folio elliptico breviter acuminato racemo congesto longiore, sepalis scuminatis, petalorum lobis triangularibus, labelli laminis pubescentibus ovatis, appendice grandi oblonga longipubescenti.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots numerous, filiform. Secondary stems slender, erect, 8-23 cm long, enclosed by 9-16 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical, 5.5-8 cm long, 1.6-2.7 cm wide, the apex acute acuminate, the base obtuse, contracted into a petiole 3-4 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively flowered raceme up to 3 cm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle up to 4 cm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 1.25 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals translucent rose to yellow, glabrous, ovate, acuminate, acute, the dorsal sepal triangular-ovate, 7-12 mm long, 3-4.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1-2 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, connate 2-3.5 mm, 7-11.5 mm long, 4.75-7 mm wide together; petals yellow to orange, suffused with red to purple, pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1-1.75 mm long, 4-5.25 mm wide, the lobes subequal, obliquely triangular; lip purple, pubescent, the blades ovate with rounded ends, pubescent, 2.25 mm long, the connectives cuneate, the body attached to the end of the ovary with the column, the appendix oblong, 0.5 mm long, long-pubescent at the apex; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin versicolor, "of various colors," referring to the variation of colors seen in the flowers.

Type: Bolivia: Cochabamba: Prov. of Chapare: epiphytic in cloud forest between Cochabamba and Villa Tunari, alt. 1850 m, 17 Jan. 1984, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 9382 (Holotype: SEL).

Although locally abundant in one area of cloud forest, this species has not yet been found elsewhere. Two or three flowers mature simultaneously, and fruit is frequently formed. As commonly seen in other species, the colors of the flower parts are variable.