

Lepanthes volsella Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Herba perparva, inflorescentia racemosa congesta foliis parvulis brevior, sepalis anguste ellipticis, petalis transverse oblongis, labello bilobo lobis falcatis, appendice minuta triangulari.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 15-27 mm long, enclosed by 4-6 minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, obtuse, 8-11 mm long, 6-8 mm wide, the base broadly cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 4 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 3-4 mm long; floral bract 0.75 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals light green with 2 light red stripes, narrowly elliptical, subacute, the dorsal sepal 3 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.3 mm, the lateral sepals connate 1 mm, 2.75 mm long, 1.25 mm wide; petals yellow, suffused with purple, transversely oblong, 0.4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, cellular-glandular, the upper lobe triangular-oblong, obtuse, the lower lobe oblong with the apex rounded, larger than the upper lobe; lip red-orange, glandular-cellular, bilobed, the lobes falcate, acute, 0.9 mm long, flanking the column, the bases cuneate into a narrow body, connate to the column above the base, the rounded sinus with a small, triangular appendix; column 1.2 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin volsella, "pincers," in reference to the shape of the lip.

Type: Costa Rica: Prov. of Cartago: La Chonta, along the Pan American highway, alt. 2450 m, 6 Aug. 1983, R. Escobar 3157 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9135.

This little species is characterized by the small elliptical leaves with a short, congested inflorescence. The sepals are narrowly elliptical, the petals are small and transversely oblong, and the lip is bilobed with the falcate lobes embracing the column.