

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

Species haec *L. longipedicellatae* C. Schweinf. similis, sed racemis folio brevioribus et pedicelis brevibus differt.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots relatively coarse. Secondary stems stout, erect, 5-7.5 cm long, enclosed by 5-7 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths with markedly dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, obtuse, 25-27 mm long including the petiole 2-3 mm long, 14-17 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a subdense, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle up to 5 mm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long, spiculate; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.25 mm long; sepals brown, spiculate externally along the thickened veins, shortly pubescent within, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, the acute apex attenuate, 5.25 mm long, 2.25 mm wide unexpanded, connate 0.5 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepal narrowly ovate, attenuate, 6 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, concave with involute margins, connate 0.5 mm; petals purple-brown, transversely oblong with obtuse apices, 0.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, microscopically pubescent; lip purple-brown, microscopically pubescent, the blades narrowly oblong, 1.5 mm long, the apices acute, incurved beneath the apex of the column, the connectives broadly cuneate, the lip 2 mm wide expanded, connate to the base of the column, the appendix a minute lobule in the acute sinus, with a microscopic tuft of hairs immediately above and below the lobule; column 1.5 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology: Named for the vicinity of Rio Zongo where this species was discovered.

Type: *BOLIVIA*: LA PAZ: Prov. of La Paz: epiphytic in cloud forest along the Rio Zongo, alt. 2600 m, 27 Jan. 1980, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez & R. Lara 4972 (Holotype: SEL).

Although the specific epithet of the related Peruvian species implies long pedicels, Schweinfurth failed to include the measurement in his description, but states that the pedicels are "much surpassing the subtending bract." The pedicels of *L. zongoensis* are only 1.5 mm long, as long as the subtending bract. Other minor differences will be noted in the above description.