

***Lepanthopsis comet-halleyi* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for Halley's Comet that shone so brightly in the early morning sky at Monteverde at the time this species was discovered.

Species haec *Lepanthopsis microlepanthis* (Griseb.) Ames affinis, sed labello obovoideo bilobo differt.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 7-15 mm long, enclosed by 3-6 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 5-11 mm long, 4-7 mm wide, the base cuneate into a twisted petiole 0.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively few-flowered raceme, up to 3 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 6-8 mm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 0.75 mm long; pedicels 0.75 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long, carinate; **sepals** red-brown, subcarinate, sparsely spiculate along the ribs, the dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, concave, 1.6 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, 3-veined above the base, barely connate to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals ovate, acute to subacute, 1.6 mm long, 1 mm wide, 2-veined at the base, connate below the middle; **petals** thick, microscopically pubescent, ovate, oblique, obtuse, 0.4 mm long, 0.4 mm wide, without a visible midvein; **lip** fleshy, cellular-glandular, obovoid-pyriform, concave, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apex cleft into 2 rounded lobes, the margins below the middle incurved and embracing the column, base narrowly cuneate, inflexibly attached to the base of the column; **column** stout, terete, 0.75 mm long, 0.4 mm broad, the anther apical, the stigma apical and entire.

COSTA RICA: Prov. of Puntarenas: epiphytic in fallen branches along the road to the Monteverde forest preserve, alt. 1500 m, 18 March 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer & D. Dod 12099 (Holotype: MO).

This little species was discovered growing with *Lepanthes comet-halleyi* Luer on fallen branches of large trees along the trail to the Monteverde forest preserve in Costa Rica. Its closest relative appears to be the minute *Lepanthopsis microlepanthes* from the islands of the Greater Antilles.

Lepanthopsis comet-halleyi is distinguished by the lip cleft into a pair of round, apical lobes. The column with the dorsal anther and the entire, apical stigma is the same in both species.

