

Lepanthes ricii Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named in honor of Darwin Ric of Montero, Bolivia, co-discoverer of this species.

Planta parva repens pendens, vaginis rhizomatis longispiculatis, foliis ellipticis glabris, inflorescentia uniflora, sepalis ovatis subacutis, petalis anguste linearibus ciliatis base biauriculatis, labello cordato apice rotundato lobis basalibus columnam amplectentibus.

Plant small, epiphytic, pendent, long-repent, the rhizome 3-5 mm long between ramicauls, occasionally branching, each segment enclosed by 2-3 long-spiculate sheaths with dilated ostia; roots slender, along the rhizome. Ramicauls abbreviated, 1 mm long, enclosed a long-spiculate, lepanthiform sheath. **Leaf** descending, coriaceous, glabrous, broadly elliptical, obtuse, 5-7 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, 3- to 5-veined, the base cuneate into a petiole less than 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a single flower, borne by a slender, upcurved peduncle 1 mm long; floral bract glabrous, 1 mm long; pedicel 1.5-2 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; **sepals** ovate, subacute, glabrous, the dorsal sepal 4.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-(5)-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 1 mm, 3-veined; **petals** narrowly linear, narrowly obtuse, long-ciliate, 3 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the base minutely biauriculate, 1 mm wide; **lip** cellular-pubescent, cordate, 2 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, the apex rounded, the basal lobes embracing the column, the base connate to the base of the column; **column** 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

BOLIVIA: Dept. of Santa Cruz: Prov. of Caballero, north of Comarapa, alt. 2380 m, 2 Nov. 1990, R. Vásquez, D. Ric & A. Burela 1277 (Holotype: MO; Isotype: herb. Vásquezianum), C. Luer illustr. 15533.

In general habit this species is similar to most of the others of the subgenus. It is distinguished by the small, glabrous leaves; long-spiculate sheaths of the rhizome and ramicauls; ovate, subacute sepals; narrowly elongate, long-ciliate petals; and an obtusely cordate lip.

