

Lepanthes ballatrix Luer, sp. nov.

Planta grandis caespitosa, inflorescentia folio anguste ovato acuminato brevior, racemo congestissimo disticho, sepalo dorsali triangulari, sepalis lateralibus ovatis subacutis, petalis transverse bilobatis, labelli laminis lunatis breviter pubescentibus, appendice late triangulari ciliata.

Plant medium to large in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems slender to stout, 10-30 cm long, enclosed by 8-15 lepanthiform sheaths, glabrous to microscopically scabrous on the upper sheaths, more or less microscopically ciliate on some of the stomata of the lower sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, glabrous beneath, narrowly ovate-elliptical, acute, acuminate, 6-12 cm long, 2.5-4 cm wide, the base rounded, abruptly contracted into a petiole 3-4 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested, distichous, short-pedicellate, successively flowered raceme up to 4 cm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 3 cm long behind the leaf; floral bract 1-1.5 mm long; pedicel 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals yellow, glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, 7-9 mm long, 3.5-4.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, subacute, connate 2.5-3 mm, 7-8.5 mm long, 5-7 mm wide together; petals yellow to orange with red to purple margins, transversely bilobed, 1.5-2 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, the lobes suborbicular to broadly elliptical; lip orange to red, more or less suffused with purple, the blades oblong-lunate, 2 mm long, obtuse, minutely pubescent, connate to the under surface of the column below the middle, the appendix triangular, concave, ciliate; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *ballatrix*, "a dancer," in reference to the fancied illusion of the flower.

Type: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: epiphytic in cloud forest between Tandayapa and Mindo, alt. 2320 m, 13 March 1982, C. Luer, A. Hirtz & S. Dalström 7294 (Holotype: SEL); IMBABURA: above Apuella, alt. 2500 m, 24 Aug. 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 3349 (SEL); Selva Alegre, alt. 2430 m, 1 May 1981, C. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 6048 (SEL); LOJA: west of the pass between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2700 m, 21 Sept. 1980, C. Luer, C. H. Dodson et al. 5525 (SEL); east of Yangana, alt. 2850 m, 4 March 1982, C. Luer, D. D'Alessandro et al. 7156 (SEL); MORONA-SANTIAGO: between Gualaceo and Limon, alt. 2600 m, 26 Dec. 1982, S. Dalström 384 SEL).

This large species is very similar to *L. elata* Rchb. f. and *L. monitor*, but *L. ballatrix* may be distinguished by the narrower dorsal sepal and suborbicular lobes of the petals. The lip is essentially the same as that of *L. monitor*.