

Lepanthes ericae Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: PERU. Flowered in cultivation, July 2011, by *Erica Morón de Abad 002* (Holotype: USM; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21672. Fig. 25.

Planta parva caespitosa, racemis paucis folio elliptico brevioribus, sepalis breviter acuminatis pallide luteolibus sepalo dorsali ad centrum atropurpureo, sepalis lateralibus univenosis, labelli lobis convexis marginibus involutis et ad apicem rotundis distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots thick. *Ramicauls* erect, slender, 7–9 cm long, enclosed by ribbed, minutely scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. *Leaf* suberect, suffused with purple beneath, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, 2.5 cm long, 1.2 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 1–2 mm long. *Inflorescence* 2–3 congested, distichous, successively many-flowered racemes to 15 mm long, including the peduncle ca. 5 mm long, borne behind the leaf; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary costate, 1 mm long; *sepals* yellow-white, the dorsal sepal dark purple centrally, ovate, acute, acuminate, 4 mm long, 3 wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for less than 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined, connate less than 1 mm, the outer margin microscopically cellular-dentate; *petals* pale yellow, microscopically cellular-pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the lobes similar, oblong, with rounded ends; *lip* pale yellow-orange, glabrous (microscopically cellular), bilobed, the lobes lunate, convex with recurved margins and rounded ends, 1.5 mm long and expanded, the apex incurved, rounded, the connectives broad, embracing the column, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the appendix small, rounded, at the sinus; *column* stout, 1.5 mm long, with the anther and the stigma apical.

Etymology: Named for Erica Morón de Abad of Lima, Peru, who cultivates this species.

This small species is a member of subsection *Breves* that is best distinguished by single-veined lateral sepals. The leaf is elliptical and

distinctly shorter than ramicauls with scabrous sheaths. Two or three short, successively flowered racemes are borne behind the leaf. The sepals are very pale yellow with a dark purple center of the dorsal sepal. The tips of the sepals are acuminate, and the lateral sepals are one-veined. The blades of the lip are lunate and convex with recurved margins; the connectives and body are broad; and a small, round appendix is present in the sinus.

