



122. ***LEPANTHES IMPOTENS***
Luer & R. Escobar

122. **LEPANTHES IMPOTENS** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris debilis, caespitosa, ramicaulibus gracillimis, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio purpureo patenti ovato longi-acuminato brevior, sepalis late ovatis denticulatis, petalis transverse lobatis pubescentibus, lobo superiore subquadrato apice oblique truncato, lobo inferiore anguste triangulari, labelli lamina convexa elliptica, connectivis late cuneatis, corporis margine antico rotundato ciliato sine appendice.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Risaralda: above Pueblo Rico, epiphytic in cloud forest below the TV antenna, alt. 2000 m, 14 May 1993, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. De Wilde & J. Gómez 16842 (Holotype: MO).

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *impotens*, "débil", en alusión al hábito de la planta.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *impotens*, "weak," in reference to the habit.

Plant medium in size, weak, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Rami-cauls very slender, suberect, 7-11 cm long, enclosed by 12-13 microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** horizontal, purple, thinly coriaceous, finely pubescent, ovate, acute, long-acuminate, 37-43 mm long, 9-11 mm wide, the base rounded or broadly cuneate, contracted into a petiole ca. 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, subsecund, successively several-flowered raceme, up to 5 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 5-8 mm long; floral bracts, lightly muriculate, 1 mm long;

pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** translucent yellow, denticulate, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, subacute, 3.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals connate 1.5 mm into a broadly ovate, bifid lamina, 3.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, each 2-veined, the apices subacute; **petals** red-orange, pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 4 mm wide, the upper lobe subquadrate, with the apex obliquely truncate, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, acute, attenuate; **lip** red-orange, bilaminar, the blades minutely pubescent, elliptical with the ends subacute, 1.25 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus protruding, ciliate, without an appendix; **column** 1 mm long, clinandrium large with the anther dorsal and the stigma ventral.

Vegetativamente esta pequeña y débil especie se parece a varias otras de ramicaules muy delgados con vainas lepanthiformes no dilatadas, estrechamente pegadas, y con pequeñas hojas horizontales con un ápice largamente acuminado, tan largo como la lámina. La hoja es rala y finamente pubescente. Las plantas frecuentemente consisten de únicamente un ramicaule con hoja.

Los sépalos y los pétalos son prácticamente idénticos a los de la ecuatoriana *L. odobenella* Luer & Hirtz, pero vegetativamente esta última es considerablemente más grande y fuerte. Las láminas del labelo de las dos especies son similares, pero el apéndice del labelo de *L. odobenella* es relativamente grande y bien desarrollado con un gozne, márgenes y una cavidad central. El apéndice de *L. impotens* se reduce a un margen ciliado del cuerpo del labelo.

Vegetatively this weak, little species is similar to several other species with very slender ramicauls with tightly applied, non-dilated, lepanthiform sheaths, and with small, horizontal leaves with a long-acuminate apex as long as the blade. The leaf is finely and sparsely pubescent. Plants often consist of only one ramicaul with leaf.

The sepals and petals are practically identical to those of the Ecuadorian *L. odobenella* Luer & Hirtz, but vegetatively the latter is considerably larger and stronger. The blades of the lip of the two species are similar, but the appendix of the latter is well-developed and relatively large with a hinge, margins and a central cavity. The appendix of *L. impotens* is reduced to a ciliate margin of the body of the lip.