

Lepanthes infundibulum Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, foliis patentibus suborbicularibus vel transverse ovatis infundibuliformibus, inflorescentia racemosa congesta brevi, sepalis ellipticis petalis transverse bilobis brevioribus, labelli laminis ovatis apicibus acuminatis incurvis, sinu cum caespiti villosa.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform. Secondary stems relatively stout, erect, 2.5-5 cm long, enclosed by 5-6 blackish, minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect to spreading, coriaceous, suborbicular to transversely ovate, concave to funnel-shaped, from 15 mm long, 13 mm wide, to 25 mm long, 23 mm wide, the apex round to obtuse, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 1-3 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 6 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 9-12 mm long; floral bract 1-1.25 mm long, pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals yellow, elliptic, subacute, the dorsal sepal 2.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals connate 1 mm, 2.5 mm long, 1 mm wide; petals yellow, suffused and edged in red, pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lobes subtriangular, narrowly obtuse, the upper lobe obtusely angled on the inner margin, slightly larger than the lower lobe; lip red-purple, the blades ovate, 1.2 mm long, minutely ciliate, the apices narrowly acuminate, acute, incurved beneath the column, the bases rounded, the connectives cuneate, connate to the column above the base, the sinus rounded, the appendix a tuft of villous hairs; column slender with a large anther-bed, 1.4 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin infundibulum, "a funnel," in reference to the shape of the leaves.

Type: Panama: Prov. of Chiriqui: epiphytic in elfin forest, Cerro Hornito, alt. 1700 m, 15 Dec. 1976, C. Luer, A. Luer, R. L. Dressler & N. H. Williams 1331 (Holotype: SEL).

The habit of this species is most unusual in the funnel-like shape of the broad leaves. The inflorescence is borne within the cup. The flowers are small, the petals longer than the sepals. The apices of the blades of the lip are narrow and curve under the large apex of the slender column. The appendix is reduced to a tuft of straight hairs in the sinus.