

***Lepanthes laevis* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *laevis*, "smooth" referring to the sepals, petals and blades of the lip.

Species haec *L. fimbriatae* Ames & C.Schweinf. affinis, sed petalis et laminis labellorum laevibus, et laminis supra columnam adhaerentibus differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 5-7 cm long, enclosed by 5-6 tightly fitting, microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, elliptical, slightly concave, acute or narrowly obtuse, 4.5-5 cm long, 2-2.2 mm wide, the base cuneate into a subpetiolate base. Inflorescence a congested, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 15 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 10-20 mm long, on top of the leaf; floral bracts 2 mm long; pedicel 2-2.5 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals yellow, carinate, the dorsal sepal broadly elliptical to suborbicular, obtuse, 3.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, subacute, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm; petals pale orange, glabrous, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the upper lobe broadly oblong, obtuse to subtruncate, 2.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, the lower lobe oblong-triangular, rounded at the apex, 2 mm long, 1 mm wide; lip rosly orange, glabrous, bilaminar, 2 mm long, with the lobes obovate, obtuse, adherent medially covering the column entirely, the connectives broadly and shortly cuneate-oblong, with the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse with an oblong, ciliate, concave appendix with a concave, bilobulate distal segment; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

PANAMA: Chiriquí, obtained from Andres Maduro, cultivated at J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, 19 June 1998, *C. Luer 18823* (Holotype: MO).

This species, known only from westernmost Panama, is closely related to *L. fimbriata* which is found from Mexico to Panama. Vegetatively and florally they are similar, but the petals and blades of the lip are smooth and totally glabrous. In addition, the blades of the lip are adherent over the entire length of the column. The connectives, body and appendix are similar.

