

Lepanthes pentoxys Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris grandisve, inflorescentia folio tenui ovato longi-acuminato brevior, racemo congesto secundo, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque late ovatis, petalis quinquelobatis labelli laminis lunatis adhaerentibus, appendice loriformi glande apicali.

Plant medium to large in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 8-20 cm long, enclosed by 10-16 minutely scabrous lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect, thinly coriaceous, purple beneath, ovate, 7-13 cm long, 2.5-5.5 cm wide, the apex long-acuminate, tridenticulate, the base obtuse to rounded, contracted into a petiole 2-5 mm long. Inflorescence an extremely congested, secund, successively flowered raceme up to 1.5 cm long, borne by a slender peduncle up to 5 cm long along the back of the leaf; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 4-4.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; flowers small for the size of the plant, glabrous; dorsal sepal orange-brown, broadly ovate, convex, obtuse, apiculate, 4 mm long, 3 mm wide; lateral sepals rose, connate 2.5 mm into a sub-orbicular, convex lamina 4 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the apices close, shortly acuminate; petals yellow, transversely bilobed, 0.6 mm long, 2.8 mm wide, with a slender appendage 1 mm long from the middle, the upper lobe suboblong, acuminate, acute, with an obtuse angle midway on the inner margin, the lower lobe triangular, narrowly acute with an acute tooth about midway on the inner margin; lip bright rose, the laminae lunate, 2 mm long, glabrous, adherent medially over the column, the connectives short, broadly cuneate, connate to the under surface of the basal third of the column, the appendix pubescent, broadly strap-shaped, with a minute, apical gland; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek *penta*, "five-," and *oxys*, "pointed," referring to the 5-lobed petals.

Type: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: epiphytic in cloud forest above Mindo, alt. 2000 m, 11 Nov. 1979, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4730* (Holotype: SEL); same area, west of Mindo toward Puerto Quito, alt. 1600 m, 13 March 1982, *C. Luer, A. Hirtz & S. Dalström 7338* (SEL).

Vegetatively this species is similar to *L. rhodophylla* Schltr., but the five-lobed lip of *L. pentoxys* immediately distinguishes it. It is a relative of the ubiquitous, vegetatively variable *L. mucronata* Lindl.