



No. 108 - ***LEPANTHES TRIFURCATA***
Luer & Escobar

No. 108 - **LEPANTHES TRIFURCATA** Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia brevi racemosa subcongesta folio ovato acuto brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis lateralibus denticulatis, petalis profunde trifurcatis partibus acuminatis, labello pubescenti profunde bifido lobis falcatis, appendice elongato reflexo.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 5 cm long in the only specimen available, enclosed by 7 microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute, 3.5 cm long, 1.4 cm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a subcongested, distichous, successively few-flowered raceme, 3-5 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 5-7 mm long; floral bracts lightly muriculate, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals yellow-white, the dorsal sepal subelliptical, acute, lightly acuminate, 6.5 mm long, 3.3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate, oblique, denticulate, 6.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined, barely connate at the base; petals white with the tips of the lobes yellow, crimson at the base, minutely pubescent, deeply trilobed, the lobes similar, diverging, narrowly triangular, acuminate, about 1 mm long, about 2 mm long to the tip of the middle lobe, 4 mm wide between the tips of the upper and lower lobes; lip rose, pubescent, deeply bifid, the lobes falcate, 1.3 mm long, embracing the column, with connectives short and narrow, barely converging to form a narrow body, connate to the middle of the column, the appendix external, recurved, narrowly oblong, sparsely pubescent; column semiterete with a large clinandrium, 2 mm long, with the anther and the stigma apical.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Antioquia?: without collection data, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquideas, 5 May 1993, *C. Luer 16720* (Holotype: MO).

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *trifurcatus*, "trifurcate," in reference to the petals.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *trifurcatus*, "trifurcado", en alusión a los pétalos.

This species is characterized by an ovate, acute leaf with much shorter, fewflowered inflorescences. The relatively large flower has acute sepals with the laterals denticulate. The petals are three-pronged, with the prongs narrowly acuminate and diverging. The lip is deeply bifid into falcate lobes that do not form laminae. The narrow bases, or connectives, join to form a narrow body that is connate about midway to the undersurface of the column. The slender appendix recurves from the outside of the body.

Esta especie se caracteriza por una hoja ovada, aguda, con inflorescencias de pocas flores mucho más cortas que la hoja. Las flores, relativamente grandes, tienen sépalos agudos con los laterales con los márgenes denticuladas. Los pétalos presentan tres dientes, con los dientes angostamente acuminados y divergentes. El labelo es profundamente bifido en lóbulos falcados que no forman láminas. Las angostas bases, o conectivas, se juntan para formar un cuerpo angosto que es connato alrededor de la mitad de la distancia a la superficie inferior de la columna. El delgado apéndice se recurva desde la parte exterior del cuerpo.