



No. 109 - ***LEPANTHES VENUSTA***
Luer & Escobar

No. 109 - *LEPANTHES VENUSTA* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta disticha folio purpureo ovato leviter acuminato brevior, sepalis late ovatis anguste caudatis, sepalis lateralibus denticulatis, petalis transverse lobatis, lobis subtriangularibus obtusis, labelli laminis convexus carnosus, connectivis latissimis, corpore lato cum appendice triangulari ciliolata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 4-6.5 cm long, enclosed by 7-9 microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, purple, coriaceous, ovate, acute, lightly acuminate, 2.5-3 cm long, 1.3-1.8 cm wide, the base rounded or broadly cuneate, contracted into a petiole 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 5 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 5-8 mm long; floral bracts, lightly muriculate, 1 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals microscopically cellular glandular, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal dull yellow, suffused with purple, broadly ovate, subacute, acuminate into a subulate apex, 6.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals purple, darker purple on the inner halves, broadly ovate, oblique, denticulate, 6.5 mm long including the tails, 2.75 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 2 mm, the apices subacute, acuminate into slender tails 2 mm long; petals bright orange, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, convex, 1.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 1-veined, the lobes opposite, subtriangular, obtuse, the upper lobe larger; lip bright orange, bilaminar, the blades thick, convex, microscopically pubescent, elliptical with rounded ends, 1.5 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus acute with the appendix triangular, pubescent; column 1 mm long, the clinandrium large with the anther apical and the stigma ventral.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Risaralda: above Pueblo Rico, epiphytic in cloud forest below the TV antenna, alt. 2400 m, 14 May 1993, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. de Wilde & J. Gómez 16839 (Holotype: MO).

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *venustus*, "beautiful," in reference to a flowering specimen.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *venustus*, "bella", en alusión a una planta florecida.

This beautiful, little species is known only from one area in the Western Cordillera. It is distinguished by medium-sized, purple, lightly acuminate leaves with a comparatively large, colorful flower with broad, purple sepals with the tips acuminate into thin tails; denticulate lateral sepals; and bright orange petals and lip. The blades of the lip are convex and fleshy, borne by broad connectives, and the appendix is small, triangular and ciliate. Although all these features are seen in other species, it is their unique combination into this particularly pretty plant that seems specific.

Esta pequeña y bellísima especie se conoce solamente de una región en la Cordillera Occidental. Se distingue por las hojas medianas, moradas, ligeramente acuminadas, con una flor comparativamente grande, colorida, con amplios sépalos morados con los ápices acuminados en caudas delgadas; sépalos laterales denticulados; y pétalos y labelo de brillante color naranja. Las láminas del labelo son convexas y carnosas, soportadas por conectivas amplias, y el ápndice es pequeño, triangular y ciliado. A pesar de que todos estos caracteres se ven en otras especies, es su combinación única en esta linda planta la que parece ser específica.