

***Lepanthes vespa* Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.**

Planta parva, racemo laxe paucifloro folio late elliptico multilongiore, sepalis acuminatis lateralibus ciliatis, petalis transverse acuminatis, labelli laminis oblongis, appendice ligulata pubescenti, columna gracillima.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 2-3.5 cm long, enclosed by 4-7 close, minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical, obtuse, 12-14 mm long including the 1.5 mm long petiole, 6-8 mm wide, the base broadly cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a weak, loose, lightly flexuous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 5 cm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 0.75 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals translucent pale rose, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, 6.5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, the margins slightly irregular, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, acute, acuminate, connate 3 mm, 6 mm long, 4.25 mm wide together, the margins ciliate; petals rose, suffused with tan, microscopically pubescent, transversely oblong, 1 mm long, 5.25 mm wide, the upper lobe triangular-subfalcate, acute, the lower lobe triangular-acute, acuminate; lip rose, suffused with tan, microscopically pubescent, the blades oblong with obtuse ends, 1.3 mm long, the connectives short, cuneate, connate to the column below the stigma, the appendix narrowly ligulate, pubescent; column 2 mm long, the apical half dilated with a large dorsal anther and ventral stigma, the lower half extremely slender.

Etymology: From the Latin *vespa*, "a wasp," referring to the wasplike shaft of the column.

Type: *BOLIVIA*: SANTA CRUZ: epiphytic in cloud forest near Siberia, alt. 2500 m, 1 Dec. 1978, C. Luer, F. Fuchs et al. 3591 (Holotype: SEL).

This species is most remarkable for the extremely slender shaft of the column which supports not only the seemingly oversized anther and stigma, but also the lip surrounding the anther and stigma. It is reminiscent of the waist of a wasp.