

Lepanthes monteverdensis Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta disticha folio ovato brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis acuminatis sparsim denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobatis, lobis anguste oblongis obtusis, labello bilobo laminis indistinctis basalibus, lobis lunatis obtusis, corpore latissimo cum appendice parva biloba.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1.5-4 cm long, enclosed by 5-9 lepanthiform sheaths with minutely ciliate, dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, subacute, 12-25 mm long, 8-13 mm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 1-1.5 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 9 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 4-8 mm long; floral bracts 0.75 mm long, muriculate; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals dull yellow-brown, ovate, carinate, with sparsely denticulate margins, acute, lightly acuminate, the dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 0.75 mm; petals orange, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.25 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the lobes narrowly oblong with rounded ends, the upper lobe slightly shorter; lip red-orange, minutely pubescent, bilobed to sub-bilaminar, the blades poorly defined below the middle of the lobes, the lobes

ovate-lunate, with the ends rounded, 1.6 mm long, the connectives and body broad, extending forward from the column, connate to the base of the column, the sinus rounded with a small oblong, bifid appendix; column 1 mm long, considerably shorter than the lip, the anther and the stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the Monteverde Forest Reserve, near where this species was discovered.

TYPE: *COSTA RICA*: Prov. of Puntarenas: epiphytic in forest along the approach to the Monteverde Forest Preserve, alt. 1400 m, *R. Escobar R. 3011* (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9127.

This species is related to the frequent and variable *L. acostaei* Schltr., but *L. monteverdensis* is easily distinguished by the lip with incompletely formed blades below the middle of the halves of the lip. The lip is divided only about a third of its length, leaving a broad body beneath the short column. The little appendix is borne in this rounded sinus beneath the stigma.