

***Lepanthes crista-piscis* Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.**

Planta parva, folio elliptico inflorescentia subdensa successiviflora longiore, sepalis ovatis breviter acuminatis, sepalis lateralibus cristatis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis oblongis apice incurvatis, appendice microscopica.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems erect, slender, 10-35 mm long, enclosed by 4-6 shortly ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, subacute, 14-22 mm long including the 2 mm long petiole, 6-9 mm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a subdense, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 7 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle up to 6 mm long; floral bract 0.75-1 mm long, verrucose; pedicel 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 1.75 mm long; dorsal sepal purple, lightly spiculate externally, ovate, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex acute, acuminate; lateral sepals yellow, spiculate externally especially along the veins, with a membranous crest along the narrowly infolded lateral margins, ovate, oblique, concave, connate 1 mm, 3.75 mm long, 2.5 mm wide together unexpanded, the apices acute, shortly acuminate; petals transversely oblong, the apices rounded, microscopically pubescent, 0.5 mm long, 2.3 mm wide, the upper lobe purple, the lower lobes shorter, yellow-orange; lip yellow-orange, microscopically pubescent, the blades oblong with acute apices incurved beneath the apex of the column, the connectives broadly cuneate, connate to the column above the base, the appendix a microscopic lobe, pubescent; column 1.5 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology: From the Latin *crista-piscis*, "crest of a fish," in reference to the crests along the margins of the lateral sepals.

Type: *BOLIVIA*: LA PAZ: Prov. of Nor Yungas; epiphytic in cloud forest east of Unduavi, alt. 2400 m, 22 Jan. 1983, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez & E. Besse 8548 (Holotype: SEL).

By virtue of the folded margins of the lateral sepals a member of the "complicata" group, this species is most remarkable for the finlike, laciniate membrane that runs the length of the margins of the lateral sepals.