

The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia Nomenclature note
ISSN 2167-6224
Vol 7 #2 2020
November 21 2020
Publication of *Lepanthopsis doucetteana*
By Jay Pfahl

Editor and Compiler of The Internet Orchid Species Photo
Encyclopedia
<http://www.orchidspecies.com>

Lepanthopsis doucetteana Pfahl 2020 sp nov.

Common Name
Doucette's *Lepanthopsis*

Etymology

Dedicated to Dr Alfonso Doucette presently of Madison Wisconsin,
Botanist, a tireless taxonomist within the Pleurothallidinae and
discoverer of the species

Holotype:

ECUADOR. Flowered in cultivation in Madison, WI, 2 Sep 2020, acquired from
Tarzane Orchid Group Inc., FL, *A.Doucette 254* (WI).

Flower size
.08" [2 mm]

Found in Ecuador without specific locality or elevational data as
a mini-miniature sized, cool growing[* see below], caespitose,
epiphyte with a few roots 1.6 to 2.4" [4 to 6 cm] long, a short
rhizome giving rise to semi-erect to repent ramicauls enveloped
by a short, .08" [2 mm] long by .04" [1 mm] wide, tubular basal
sheath and a longer, .32" [8 mm] long by .04" [1 mm] wide,
inflated, acute sheath above and carrying a single, apical,
ovate, .4 to .68" [10 to 17 mm] long by .2 to .36" [5 to 9 mm]
wide, retuse apically leaf that blooms on a terminal,
peduncle .52 to .8" [1.3 to 2 cm] long by .02" [.5 mm] wide,
successively few, alternate, densely many flowered inflorescence
with .02 to .024" [.5 to .6 mm] long by .02 to .028" [.5 to .7
mm] wide floral bracts. The flowers consist of an oblong, 3
veined, 1.9 to 2 mm long x 1.1 to 1.2 mm wide dorsal sepal, a
widely elliptic, 3 veined, 1.5 to 1.9 mm long x 1.5 to 1.7 mm
wide lateral sepals are fused for their entire length, the
suborbicular, cupped, .5 x .5 mm petals, a oblong-elliptic,
slightly bilobed, .9 to 1 mm long x 1 to 1.1 mm wide lip, the
semi-terete, short, 0.2 mm long x 0.5 mm wide column with a
ventral anther and a transversely bilobed stigma carrying 2,
spherical, yellow pollina which do not appear to have a
viscidium.

Habitat:

Ecuador, but without location and elevational data but, [*] the growth temperatures were ascertained by growing the species in two different environments, one warm (80F day temp with a drop down to 55F at night) and the other cool (75F and a drop to 55F at night). Doucette has been growing them separately for four months now and the one that is growing cool has really taken off. It has produced two new shoots while the one that is growing warm has only produces one new shoot and has lost a leaf. Based on their performance, Doucette hypothesizes that this species is a cool growing species from between 1800 to 2000 meters in Ecuador. <P>Phenology: The species bloomed in the late summer and early spring but it may, in maturity and good health, become basically free-flowering, as others within the genus are.

Diagnosis: The new species is most similar florally to *Lepanthopsis floripectin* but can be distinguished by the lack of lepanthiform sheaths on the ramicaul.

Discussion: *Lepanthopsis hyalina* (Cuba) and *Lepanthopsis vellozicola* (Brazil) both lack the lepanthiform sheaths of the ramicaul but the sepals in both of those species are pretty different from the new species. *L. hyalina* doesn't have the lateral sepals fused for the whole length and the lateral sepals of *L. vellozicola* are shortly acuminate and those of the new species are not. The column of the new species is also distinctive because it sticks out, kind of like in *Platystele scopulifera* so that the stigma is facing downwards instead of forwards. That difference in the column distinguishes the new species from all three.

References:

W3 Tropicos

Kew Monocot list

IPNI

Icones Pleurothallidarum VIII: Systematics of *Lepanthopsis*, *Octomeria* subgenus *Pleurothallopsis*, *Restrepiella*, *Restrepiopsis*, *Salpistele*, and *Teagueia*. *Monographs in Systematic Botany from the Missouri Botanical Garden* 39: 1-158. Luer, C.A. 1991.

New species of *Platystele* and *Pleurothallis* (Orchidaceae) from Cuba. *Willdenowia* 32: 99-104. Stenzel, H. 2002.

Two new species of Orchidaceae from Brazil: *Bulbophyllum carassense* and *Lepanthopsis vellozicola*. *Novon* 19: 380-387. Custódio da Mota, R., Barros, F., and Stehmann, J.R. 2009.