**The Genus Lepanthes**

Sw. 1799

Type species: *Lepanthes ovalis*

Found in moist tropical forests over a large area stretching from Mexico to Brazil, the type species Lepanthes concinna (syn. L. ovalis) was first described in 1799. Many of the species of this genus are obscure and little known, poorly defined or not yet described. It is a genus in flux. Lepanthes is allied to Pleurothallis and derives its generic name from the Greek lepis (scale) and anthos (flower) referring to the very small flowers of many of the species in this genus. Yet, if one took the time to study the diminutive flowers at close range, it would be found they are most unusual and daintily attractive. The complex tiny flowers are often brightly hued but short lived. According to Carl Luer. There are over 1111 species in this mini-miniature epiphytic or lithophytic genus that have smaller flowers that nestled near where the stem attaches generally to a single leaf distributed in the Antilles and from Mexico through Bolivia (with very few species in Brazil) The genus is abbreviated in horticultural trade as Lths.

Almost all the species in the genus are small and live in cloud forests. Typically the ramicauls are emclosed by a series of tubular, ribbed, more or less imbricating sheaths with oblique, dilated, marginated ostia, and the ribs and margins of the ostia are grossly or microscopically ciliate or scabrous, occasionally glabrous. The flowers, are usually produced successively in racemes with an annulus near the apex of the ramicaul, are delicate, membranous and multicolored. The petals and lip commonly are transversly lobed. The lip is usually so specialized that its own terminology is required. The middle lobe is commonly represented by a sculpted, microscopic appendix. The base of the lip is **connate** (join together) to the under surface and often near the base of the footless column. The stems are also unusual with tufted, ring-like sheaths. In the genus Lepanthes as a whole each species has only a single flower which is produced successively over a few weeks to a few months but it is possible for most any Lepanthes species to have more than 1 flower at any one time.

Lepanthes, just like other Pleurothallis, isn’t widely hybridized. Judging Lepanthes requires Plerothallis judging scale.

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| Significant species | Offsprings | Awards | Special characteristics |
| Lths. elegantula | 0 | 2 AMs, 3 CCMs, 1 CHM, 1 CBR | High elevation, grows cool |
| Lths. telipogoniflora | 1 | 1 AM, 2 HCCs, 2 CCMs, 3 CHMs | Low land, grows warm-hot |
| Lths. tsubotae | 0 | 1 AM, 2 CCMs, 1 CHM | Intermediate-warm |
| Lths. caprimulgus | 0 | 1 AM, 1 HCC, 2 CCMs, 1 CBM | Cool, cloud forest |
| Lths. escobariana | 0 | 1 AM, 1 HCC, 1 CCM, 1 CBM | Cool, cloud forest |
| Lths. calodictyon | 3 | 1 CCE, 1 CHM | Attractive leaves, Intermediate |

**SPECIES DATA REPORT**

**Lepanthes telipogonilora**Schuit. & A. de Wilde 1996

Synonym: N/A

 Found in Risaralda Colombia at elevations of 500 meters as a mini-miniature sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte with slender, erect ramicauls enveloped by 4 to 5 microscopically ciliate lepanthiform sheaths and carrying a single, apical, erect, **coriaceous** (texture of leather), elliptical, obtuse, broadly **cuneate** (wedge shaped) below into the petiolate base leaf that blooms in the spring on a slender, lax, .4 to .6” [1 to 1.5 cm] long, successively single, few flowered inflorescence.



**Varieties*:*** *N/A*

**Awards**: 1 AM, 2 HCCs, 2 CCMs, 3 CHMs

**Hybrids:** Lths. Sherry Bridygham (calodictyon x teligoponiflora) is the only known hybrid, registered in 2015 by Ecuagenera has already received 1 HCC in 2015 and 1 CCM in 2017



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