

## Featured Orchid

### *Lepanthes elegantula*



plants with colorful flowers; some of which require magnification to fully appreciate. Most *Lepanthes* bear deep-green leaves, while others have reddish leaves, and others have a mottled appearance.

*Lepanthes* are cool to intermediate growing; dependent upon the elevation of origin. They grow best on vertical or horizontal mounts under conditions of high-humidity and low-light. *Lepanthes* grow well under lights if humidity can be maintained, and they prefer ample watering.

The flower shown is *Lepanthes elegantula*. This plant represents one of the large flowered species, sporting a bloom of over one inch vertical and one-half inch horizontal. The plant pictured was grown and photographed by Bryon Rinke.

#### References:

Pridgeon, Alec. (1999). *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids*. Timberline Press, Portland OR.

Dodson, C. (2002). *Native Ecuadorian Orchids, Volume II: Dresslerella – Lepanthes*. Dodson Trust, Sarasota FL.

Genus Pronounced: le-PAN-theez. *Lepanthes* from Greek lepis or scale and anthos or flower; combined lepanthos or scale-like flower. Species pronounced: ella-GAN-tue-la. from Latin elegantulus or elegant. Combined: The Elegant Lepanthes.

The genus *Lepanthes* grow as epiphytes in wet cloud forests of tropical America from sea level to above 3000 meters (9,850 ft.) in elevation. *Lepanthes* plants lack pseudobulbs, and generally can be recognized by a series of tubular ribbed sheaths (lepanthiform sheaths) that surround the ramicauls (stem supporting the leaf). Comprised of some 800 species, *Lepanthes* tend to be miniature