

***Lepanthes acarina* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta minuta caespitosa, inflorescentia folio ovato paulo longiore, flore rubro minimo, sepalis serrulatis acutis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis lunatis, appendice pubescenti sigmoidea.

Plant minute, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 10-25 mm long, enclosed by 3-6 close lepanthiform sheaths, microscopically scabrous. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, obtuse, 7-10 mm long, 4-6 mm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole ca. 1 mm long. Inflorescence a successively few-flowered raceme 3-4 mm long, borne by a capillary pedicel up to 10 mm long; floral bract and pedicel ca. 1 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals red, minutely serrulate-ciliate on the margins and ribs externally, the dorsal sepal broadly triangular, subacute, 2.3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 2.5 mm long, 2.66 mm wide together, connate 1 mm; petals red, transversely oblong, 0.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, oblique, obtusely angled, the lower lobe smaller, narrowly oblong, obtuse; lip red, the blades of the lateral lobes lunate, glabrous, 1 mm long, the connectives cuneate, connate to the under surface of the lip, the appendix pubescent, constricted above the middle with the apical portion deflexed; column stout, 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From *Acarina*, the order of the mites, in reference to the little, red, prickly flowers.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: epiphytic in cloud forest near Rio Silante, Finca Canchacato, alt. ca. 2000 m, 28 Oct. 1979, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz* 4399 (Holotype: SEL); near Tandapi, alt. 1300 m, Oct. 1982, *A. Hirtz* 372 (SEL); *MORONA-SANTIAGO*: cloud forest between Gualaceo and Limon, alt. 2650 m, 29 Oct. 1982, *C. Luer, R. Escobar & A. Pozo* 8220 (SEL); *BOLIVIA*: COCHABAMBA: Prov. of Charasco: Monte Puncu along Rio Lope Mendoza, alt. 2400-2600 m, 1 Feb. 1981, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez & E. Besse* 5819 (SEL); *LA PAZ*: Prov. of Nor Yungas: west of Coroico, alt. 2550 m, 27 Jan. 1983, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez & E. Besse* 8611 (SEL); *COLOMBIA*: ANTIOQUIA: Munic. of Cocorná: forest in quebrada near Rio Cocorná, alt. 1600 m, 24 April 1983, *C. Luer, R. Escobar et al.* 8810 (SEL); Munic. of Frontino: Alto de Cuevas, alt. 2050 m, 14 May 1983, *R. Escobar* 2602 (SEL); Munic. of Jardin: Alto de Ventanas, alt. 2800 m, 25 May 1983, *R. Escobar* 2726 (SEL); Munic. of Sonson: Tres Cruces, alt. 2750 m, 30 April 1983, *C. Luer, R. Escobar et al.* 8903 (SEL); Munic. of Yarumal: Alto de Ventanas, alt. 2100 m, 20 May 1983, *R. Escobar* 2614 (SEL); *NORTE DE SANTANDER*: Munic. of Toledo: Alto de Santa Ines, alt. 2100 m, 23 May 1982, *C. Luer, R. Escobar & D. Portillo* 7962 (SEL).

This species is distinguished by the little, red, prickly flower held above the little ovate leaf. The sepals are minutely serrulate, the dorsal broadly triangular, the blades of the lip are lunate and between them the appendix is proportionately large, pubescent, and deflexed upon itself above the middle.