

Lepanthes agglutinata Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia folio ovato acuminato brevior, racemo congestissimo, sepalis late ovatis breviter acuminatis minute denticulatis, petalis transverse oblongis pubescentibus cum processo mediano, labelli laminis lunatis diaphanis agglutinatis, connectivis anticis, corpore angusto, appendice grandi oblonga ciliata cum glande apicali.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 11-16 cm long, enclosed by 13-16 microscopically ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, purple beneath, ovate, long-acuminate, 6-8.5 cm long, 1.8-2.7 cm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 3-4 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested raceme up to 25 mm long of successive flowers, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 25 mm long along the back of the leaf; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 3.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long, winged; sepals translucent, carinate, with minutely denticulate margins, acute, shortly acuminate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate-triangular, 5.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm basally to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals oblique, the apices diverging, 5.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; petals green with purple margin, shortly pubescent, transversely oblong, 1.5 mm long, 4.75 mm wide, with a 1 mm long process from the outer margin at the midvein, the lobes oblong, obtuse, the lower lobe smaller; lip green, the blades lunate, 1.75 mm long, membranous, glabrous, adherent medially over the column, the connectives narrow, attached to the apical portions of the blades, the body narrow, connate to the base of the column, the appendix 1 mm long, oblong, ciliate, concave, truncate-retuse, with a ciliated, apical gland; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *agglutinatus*, "glued together," referring to the blades of the lip.

Type: *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: epiphytic in cloud forest near the river above Valladolid, alt. ca. 2000 m, 21 Feb. 1982, *D. D'Alessandro 165* (Holotype: SEL) C. Luer illustr. 9075.

This species is another relative of the common and widespread *L. mucronata* Lindl., but *L. agglutinata* is distinguished by the larger habit, diverging lateral sepals, narrow connectives attached near the apice of the membranous blades of the lip, a narrow body, and a large appendix with an apical gland.

The lunate, membranous blades of the lip are agglutinated medially over the column to form a flat, elliptical surface, a set of characters found in *L. mucronata* and its relatives.