

Lepanthes amphioxys Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *amphioxys*, "sharply pointed at both ends," referring to the petals.

Fig. 11.

Planta parva debilis caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio rubro marginibus viridibus anguste ovato brevior, sepalis ovatis denticulatis, petalis transverse lobatis, lobis triangularibus acutis, labelli laminis ovatis, connectivis cuneatis, appendice grandi oblonga apice obtusa longiciliata.

Plant small, weak, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls suberect, very slender, 1.5-7.5 cm long, enclosed by 5-13 closely fitting, glabrous lepanthiform sheaths, with the ostia microscopically scabrous. **Leaf** spreading, green or suffused with red or red-brown with green margins, thinly coriaceous, ovate to narrowly ovate, acute, 22-45 mm long, 6-8 mm wide, the apex long-acuminate, prominently tridentate, the cuneate base contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 4 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 4-12 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long, lightly echinate; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** yellow, ovate, subacute, denticulate, the dorsal sepal 2.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 2.5 mm long, 1.4 mm wide, connate 1 mm; **petals** orange, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lobes obliquely triangular, acute, the upper lobe larger; **lip** red, microscopically pubescent, bilaminar, the blades ovate, acute, not covering the column, 1 mm long, the connectives cuneate, forming a very narrow body, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, the appendix large, descending, pubescent, oblong-ovoid, the apex rounded with a dense tuft of cilia; **column** 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Imbabura: epiphytic in cloud forest south of Lita between Santa Rosa and Cachabi, alt. 1250 m, 19 Jan. 1987, C. Luer, J. Luer, C. H. Dodson, A. Hirtz, D. Benzing & D. Bermudes 12440 (Holotype: MO); same area, C. Luer et al. 12441, 12444 (MO); same area, alt. 1300 m, 19 Mar. 1991, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 15175, 15176, 15180 (MO).

This little species is apparently endemic in northwestern Ecuador. It is characterized by very thin, weak ramicauls; spreading, narrowly ovate leaves suffused with red but with the margins green; transverse petals with both lobes long-pointed; a bilaminar lip with the very small laminae flanking the column; and a large, oblong, descending appendix with a tuft of long hairs on the rounded apex.

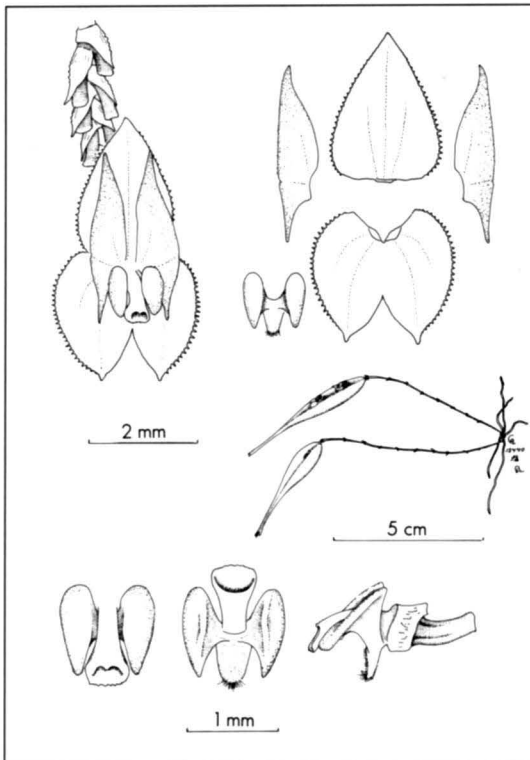


Fig. 11. *Lepanthes amphioxys*