

Lepanthes angulata Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 14.

Ety.: From the Latin *angulatus*, "angled," referring to outer margin of the petals.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta foliis ovatis brevioribus, sepalis ovatis integris, petalis transverse lobatis, lobo superiore triangulari cum angulo basali magno supra lobum inferiorem anguste ovatum, labelli laminae obovatis apice lobulatis, connectivis anguste oblongis, appendice pubescenti oblonga lata, parte terminali crassa subtrilobata.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots numerous, slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 10-16 mm long, enclosed by 5 shortly spiculate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, broadly ovate, obtuse, 13-15 mm long, 11-13 mm wide, the base rounded or cordate, contracted into a petiole 2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively several-flowered raceme up to 4 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 4-5 mm long; floral bracts spiculate, 1 mm long; pedicels 1.5-2 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, carinate, entire, the dorsal sepal elliptical, subacute, shortly acuminate, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals purple on the inner halves, ovate, oblique, obtuse, shortly acuminate, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** red-orange, yellow toward the base, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm-1.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the outer margin with a prominent decurved angle at the base of the upper lobe, the upper lobe triangular, narrowly obtuse, the lower lobe narrowly subovate, narrowly obtuse; **lip** purple, microscopically pubescent, bilaminar, the blades obovate, the apices more or less truncate, the outer angles narrowly obtuse, the inner angles shorter and broadly angled, 2 mm long, the connectives oblong, elevating the blades above the column, the body connate to the base of the column, the appendix comparatively large, pubescent, oblong, with the distal portion thick, subtrilobed; **column** 1.5 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

Zamora-Chinchi: epiphytic in cloud forest east of the pass between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2000 m, 22 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13578 (Holotype: MO); same area, alt. 2200 m, 5 Mar. 1990, S. Dalström & Årby 1451 (MO); same area, alt. 2250 m, 25 Jan. 1992 C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, A. & P. Jesup 16168 (MO).

This little species is apparently endemic in southeastern Ecuador. It is remarkable for the large, decurved angle on the outer margin of the petals. The sepals and petals are similar to those of *L. dictydion* Luer & Hirtz. The leaves of *L. angulata* are broadly ovate, neither orbicular nor reticulate; the racemes are short and congested; the sepals are entire and shortly acuminate; the petals are transversely bilobed with the prominent angle at the base of the triangular upper lobe; the blades of the lip are held above the column; and the appendix is comparatively large with a trilobed, distal segment.

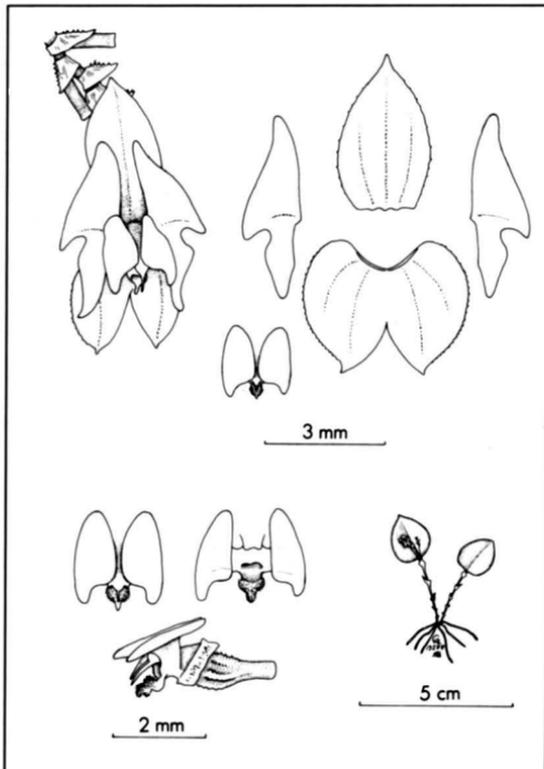


Fig. 14. *Lepanthes angulata*