

***Lepanthes barbelifera* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Fig. 23.

Ety.: From the Latin *barbelifer*, "barbel-bearing," referring to barbel-like lobes of the petals and lip

Species haec *L. calodictyonis* Hook. affinis, sed habitu minore foliorum marginibus non conspicue undulatis, petalorum lobo mediano ligulato et labello basi bicaudato differt.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1-3 cm long, enclosed by 3-6 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** suberect to spreading, thinly coriaceous, reticulated, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, with the margins entire or only faintly undulate, 6-15 mm long, 5-15 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 0.5-2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, subsecund, successively several-flowered raceme, 2-3 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 4-9 mm long; floral bracts 1-0.5 mm long, minutely echinate; pedicels 2-3 mm long; ovary spiculate, 2-2.5 mm long; **sepals** orange, membranous, reflexed, glabrous, sparsely ciliate, carinate-spiculate externally, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 3.25 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined, free from the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 3.25 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 0.25 mm; **petals** microscopically pubescent, trilobed, the middle lobe transversely oblong, ciliate, 1.75-2 mm long, 0.75-1 mm wide, 3-veined, the basal, inner, upper margin contracted into a filamentous tail 2.5-3 mm long, the basal, inner, lower margin contracted into a filamentous tail 3 mm long; **lip** orange-brown, minutely ciliate, subquadrate, the apex broadly obtuse, shallowly retuse, 1.3 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, with the basal angles produced into filamentous tails 0.6 mm long, connate by a slender claw to the column near the middle; **column** 1 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

**Carchi:** epiphytic in forest between Chical and Maldonado, alt. 1500 m, collected by J & L Orchids with A. Hirtz, alt. 1800 m, 11 Jan. 1993, A. Hirtz 5865 (Holotype: MO); flowered in cultivation at J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, 12 Mar. 1994, C. Luer 17132 (MO).

This species is closely related to *L. calodictyon*, but it differs from the latter in the smaller leaves with deep green reticulations and non-undulate margins. The petals consist of a single, transversely oblong lobe with filamentous tails produced from both margins above the base. Most distinguishing is the subquadrate lip with a slender tail produced from the bases that surround the column.

*Lepanthes calodictyon* is widely distributed in southern Colombia and western central Ecuador. Within its distribution in northern Ecuador four closely related species are recognized: this species, *L. saltatrix*, *L. tentaculata* and *L. volador*.

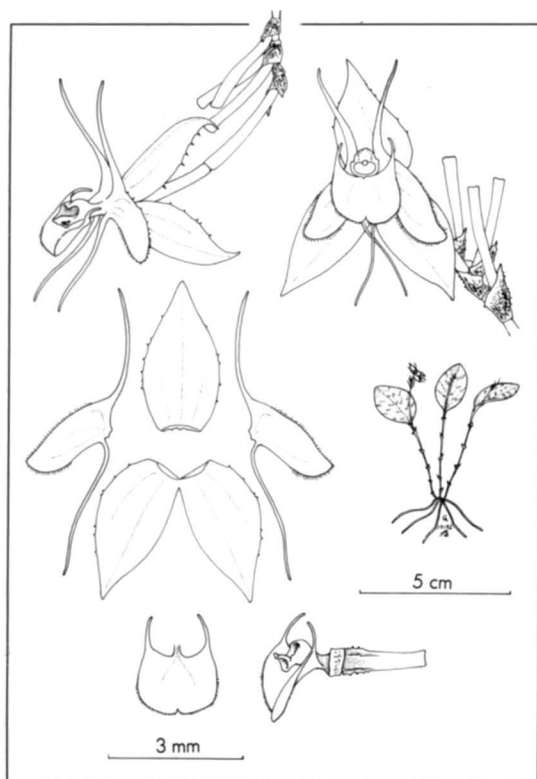


Fig. 23. *Lepanthes barbelifera*