

Lepanthes barbigera Luer & Jost, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *barbiger*, "bearing whiskers," referring to the long-ciliate blades of the lip.

Planta mediocris, racemo disticho congestissimo folio longi-acuminato breviore, sepalis denticulatis brevi-acuminatis, petalis transverse bilobis pubescentibus, labelli laminis oblongis longi-ciliatis, appendice oblonga sulcata minute pubescenti distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 4-8 cm long, enclosed by 8-13 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute, long-acuminate, 4-6 cm long, 2-2.2 cm wide, the base rounded, abruptly contracted into a petiole 3 mm long. Inflorescence a distichous, congested, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 15 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 10-15 mm long; floral bracts 0.75 mm long; pedicels 0.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals translucent pale yellow, suffused with rose, denticulate, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, shortly acuminate, 4.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, obtuse, shortly acuminate into tails less than 1 mm long, 4 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm; petals orange with the upper edge rose, transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, rounded at the tip, ciliate, microscopically pubescent, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, rounded at the tip, long-pubescent; lip red, bilaminate, the blades oblong, glabrous, long-ciliate toward the apex, slightly concave, with the bases rounded and the apices subacute, conduplicate, 1.9 mm long, covering the column, the connectives cuneate, forming a broad, thick body, connate to the base of the column, the appendix small, oblong, sulcate, minutely pubescent; column 2 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Tungurahua: Cerro Mayordomo, alt. 2550 m, 30 Mar. 1999, L. Jost 1511 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19154.

This species is characterized by the ovate, long-acuminate leaf, and a very congested raceme behind the leaf. The sepals are denticulate and obtuse but shortly acuminate. The petals are pubescent, the lower lobes being long-pubescent. The blades of the lip are flat to slightly concave and long-ciliate toward the apices. The appendix is sulcate and protrudes beyond a thick sinus of the body.

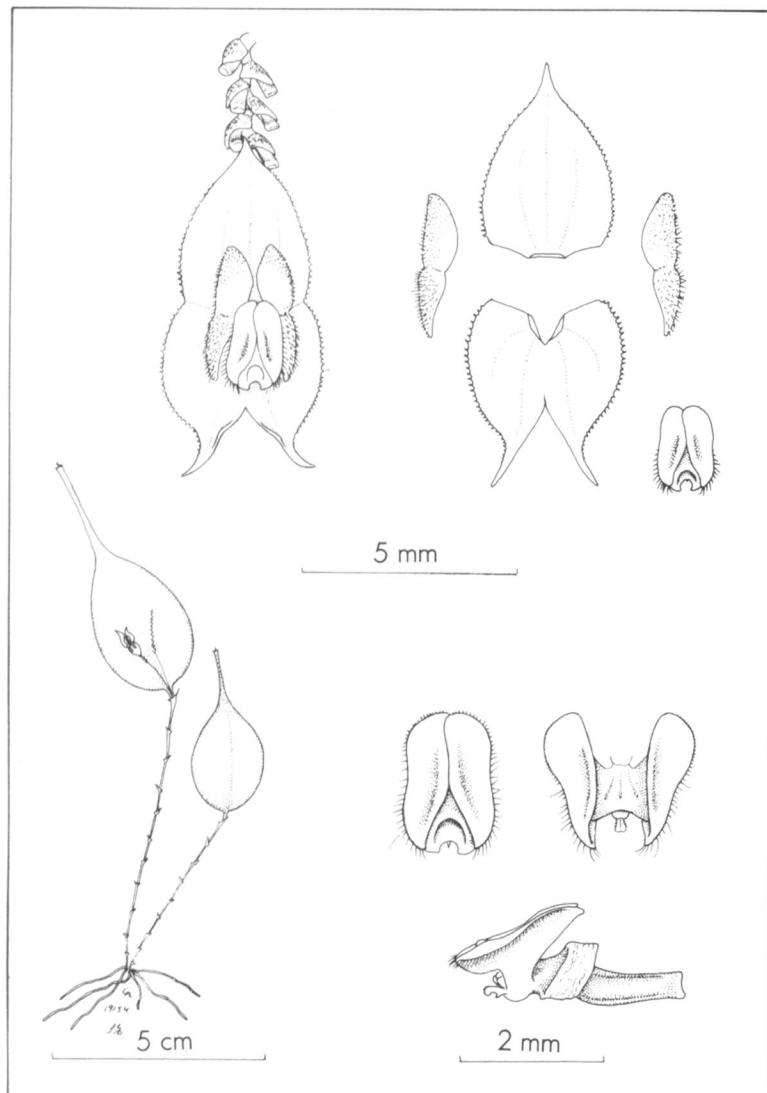


Fig. 295. *Lepanthes barbigera*