

Lepanthes bifaria Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva vel mediocris, inflorescentia foliis ellipticis longi-acuminatis brevior, racemo disticho densifloro, sepalis denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobis ciliatis, labelli lamina ellipticis ciliatis, appendicibus duobus brevibus ciliatis.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filamentous. Secondary stems slender, erect, 4-6 cm long, enclosed by 9-11 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths with dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, 4-5 cm long, 1-1.4 cm wide, the apex acute, long-acuminate, tridenticulate with the middle tooth elongated, the base cuneate into a petiole 1.5 mm long. Inflorescence a dense, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 5 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 12-22 mm long; floral bract 1.25 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals yellow, suffused with red, denticulate, carinate-spiculate, the laterals fimbriate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 1 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals ovate, subacute, connate 1 mm, 3.5 mm long, 1.6 mm wide; petals red-purple, short-pubescent, long-ciliate, transversely bilobed, 0.6 mm long, 2.1 mm wide, the lobes subequal, subfalcate with rounded ends; lip red-purple, the blades narrowly elliptical, 1.66 mm long, long-ciliate, the ends narrowly obtuse, the connectives short and broad forming a broad body attached to the base of the column, the obtuse sinus with a pair of equal, short, oblong, ciliate appendices; column slender, 2 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology: From the Latin bifarius, "double," in reference to the pair of similar appendices.

Type: Ecuador: Prov. of Pichincha: Tandapi, alt. 2000 m, July 1983, A. Hirtz 1013 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9156.

This species is superficially similar to many others with long-acuminate leaves and a short, congested inflorescence, but the lateral sepals are fimbriate, the petals and blades of the lip are long-ciliate, and the appendix is double, both appendices being short and ciliate, side by side in a broad sinus.