

Lepanthes calliope Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 31.

Ety.: Named for Calliope, one of the nine Muses, the Muse of epic poetry.

Planta mediocris, inflorescentia cum racemo congestissimo disticho folio elliptico-ovato breviter acuminato brevior, sepalo dorsali triangulari acuto, sepalis lateralibus ovatis obtusis abrupte breviter acuminatis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore late ovato obtuso, lobo inferiore subquadrato cum lobulo in margine interiore, labelli lamina oblongis minute pubescentibus, connectivis late cuneatis, sinu protuberanti cum appendice parva.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 6-9 cm long, enclosed by 8-12 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, subacute, shortly acuminate, 5.5-6 cm long, 1.5-1.8 cm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 2-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** a very congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 20-23 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 0.75 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** light yellow, glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, 6 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, obtuse, abruptly short-acuminate, 6 mm long, connate 2.5 mm, 5.2 mm wide together, each 2-veined; **petals**

yellow with a purple edge, cellular-glandular, transversely bilobed, 1.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobe broadly ovate, obtuse, the lower lobe subquadrate with a small lobule in the inner angle of the truncate apex; **lip** rose, bilaminate, the laminae microscopically pubescent, oblong, 2.25 mm long, with the apices and bases rounded, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus rounded and protuberant with a small, pubescent appendix; **column** 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Morona-Santiago: Cordillera del Condor, epiphytic in forest east of Guismé, alt. 1,750 m, 21 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13566 (Holotype, MO); same area, alt. C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13540 (MO).

This species, apparently endemic in the Cordillera del Condor in southeastern Ecuador, is not remarkably distinct in habit: a congested inflorescence shorter than and behind an elliptical, acuminate leaf. The sepals are light yellow, ovate and pointed, the shortly acuminate apices of the lateral sepals diverging. The lower lobe of the transversely bilobed petals is shortly subquadrate with a small lobule on the inner corner. The lip is remarkable with a protuberant sinus with a small, pubescent nodule for an appendix at the summit.

Lepanthes calliope is similar to the frequent *L. monitor*, but it is distinguished from the latter by the petals with the transverse, lobulate lower lobes.

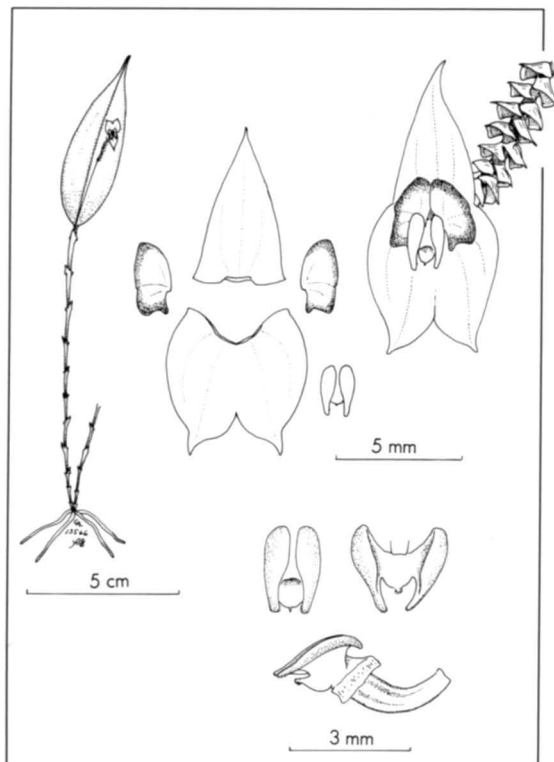


Fig. 31. *Lepanthes calliope*