

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

Fig. 60.

Ety.: From the Greek *kotyliskos*, "a little cup," referring to the cuplike lip.

*Planta parva debilis, inflorescentia laxiflora folio anguste ovato leviter brevior, sepalis late ovatis leviter acuminatis, petalis bilobis, labello bilobo suborbiculato vel late subcordato inciso, appendice oblonga pubescenti.*

**Plant** small to medium size, weak, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 6-9 cm long, enclosed by 8-10 microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** suberect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, apiculate, 2.5-5.5 cm long, 8-11 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** a weak, loose, successively several-flowered raceme, up to 4 cm long including the peduncle 0.5-1 cm long, borne behind the leaf; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; **sepals** yellow, minutely ciliate, carinate-spiculate externally along the veins, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, lightly acuminate, 2.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, subacute, lightly acuminate, 2.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 0.5 mm; **petals** red, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the lobes subequal, oblong with rounded ends; **lip** orange, microscopically pubescent, broadly subcordate or suborbicular, 1 mm long and slightly wider expanded, curved around the column to form a cup, with the basal lobes in apposition above the column, the broad, bilobed apex incised, with an oblong, pubescent appendix in the sinus, the body connate to the base of the column; **column** 1 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

**Carchi:** epiphytic wet forest east of the pass east of Maldonado, alt. 2300 m, 17 Mar. 1991, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, X. Hirtz & J. Del Hierro 15140 (Holotype: MO); east of Maldonado, alt. 2200 m, 25 Feb. 1992, S. Dalström et al. 1575 (MO).

This weak species is distinguished by the thin ramicauls, narrowly ovate leaves and a distantly flowered raceme that eventually nearly reaches the apex of the leaf in length. The flower is distinguished by one-veined lateral sepals and a suborbicular lip that forms a cup surrounding the column. The apex of the lip is bilobed with a small appendix in the sinus.

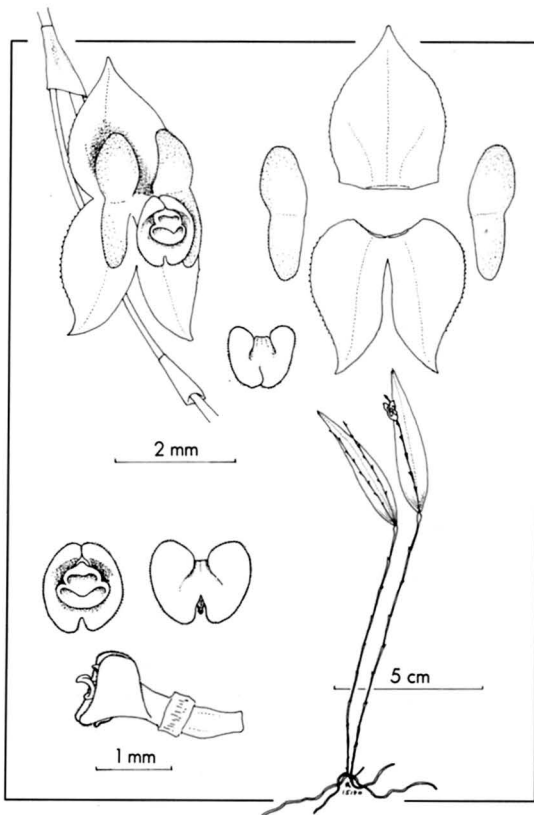


Fig. 60. *Lepanthes cotylisca*