

Lepanthes cremasta Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 62.

Ety.: From the Greek *kremastos*, "hanging," referring to the pedunculated appendix.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio elliptico brevior, sepalis anguste ovatis denticulatis, petalis transverse lobatis brevipubescenti, lobo superiore oblique ovato rotundato, lobo inferiore multiminore oblique triangulari obtuso, labelli laminis anguste oblongis basi uncinatis apice brevibus subacutis ciliatis, appendice pedunculata pensili pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots numerous, capillary. Ramicauls erect, stout, 6-17 cm long, enclosed by 9-16 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths, the ostia minimally dilated. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 5-6 cm long, 1.5-2 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 20 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 20-25 mm long; floral bracts 2 mm long, echinate; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, denticulate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, acute, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate, oblique, attenuate-acute, 6 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, connate 1 mm; **petals** yellow, shortly pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobe ovate, rounded, oblique, the lower lobe much smaller, obliquely triangular, obtuse; **lip** yellow, bilobed, the lobes elliptical-oblong, 2 mm long, erect, embracing the column, the bases uncinatate, the apices subacute, ciliate, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtusely acute, the appendix ovoid, bifid, pubescent, attached to the sinus by a slender peduncle, suspended between the apices of the labellar lobes; **column** 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

Esmeraldas: epiphytic in cloud forest west of Lita, alt. 800 m, 13 Aug. 1986, A. Hirtz 2963 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 13772.

This species is characterized by stout ramicauls much longer than the leaves; congested inflorescences shorter than the leaves; narrowly ovate, denticulate sepals; obliquely bilobed, obtuse, pubescent petals; and erect, oblong lobes of the lip embracing the column, uncinatate at the base, and with short apices with a long-pedunculated, pubescent appendix suspended between them.

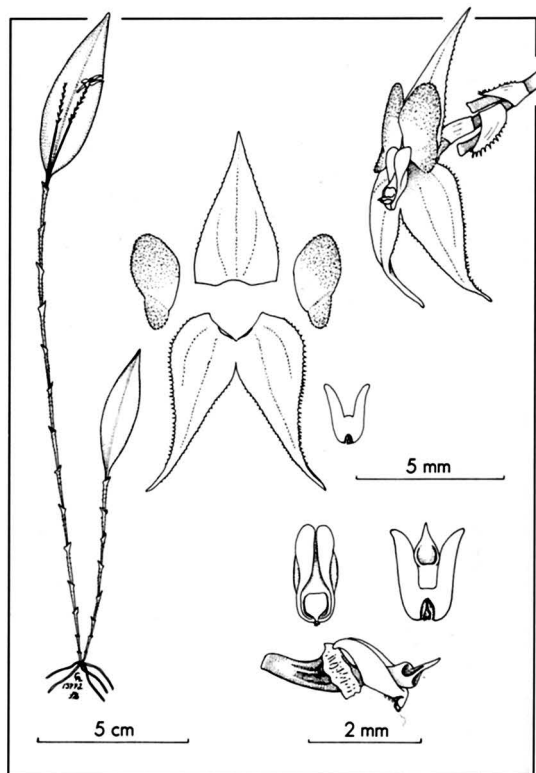


Fig. 62. *Lepanthes cremasta*