

***Lepanthes crescentiformis* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *crescentiform*, "crescent-shaped," in allusion to the petals.

Species haec *Lepanthidis minutipetalae* C.Schweinf. similis, sed ramicaulibus brevioribus, sepalis acutis non breviter acuminatis, et petalis late crescentiformibus differt.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3-10 cm long, enclosed by 8-11 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute, 2.5-4 cm long, 8-13 mm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 2-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** 1-2 loose, slightly flexuous, successively flowered racemes up to 18 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 5 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long; pedicels ca. 1 mm long; ovary 1.25-2 mm long; **sepals** light yellow, entire, microscopically pubescent, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, 4.5-5 mm long, 3.4 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for ca. 1 mm, the lateral sepals elliptical, oblique, acute, 4.5-5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** dark red, short-pubescent, transversely bilobed, minutely apiculate between the lobes, 1 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, 1-veined, the lobes nearly equal, broadly crescent-shaped, incurved, rounded at the tips, 1 mm long, 0.5 mm wide; **lip** dark red, minutely pubescent, bilaminate, the blades oblong, with rounded ends, ca. 1.5 mm long, with the connectives broadly cuneate, from the middle, the body broad, connate to the column at the base, the appendix oblong, ciliate, with a terminal, ciliate gland; **column** 2 mm long, with the anther apical and the stigma ventral.

Cochabamba: Chapare, road to Villa Tunari, alt. 2500 m, 4 Feb. 1983, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 8688 (Holotype of *L. crescentiformis*: SEL); same area, alt. 2900 m, 22 Jan. 1980, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 4886 (SEL).

This species from central Bolivia is apparently related to *Lepanthes minutipetala* C.Schweinf. from an altitude 1000 meters higher in central Peru. The ramicauls of both species are slender, but those of *L. minutipetala* are about six times longer than the leaves. The flowers are superficially similar, but the petals are distinctive. Those of *L. minutipetala* are transversely oblong, but no dimensions are given, nor is pubescence either mentioned or illustrated. Those of *L. crescentiformis* are reniform and densely short-pubescent with the ends of the lobes rounded and incurved.

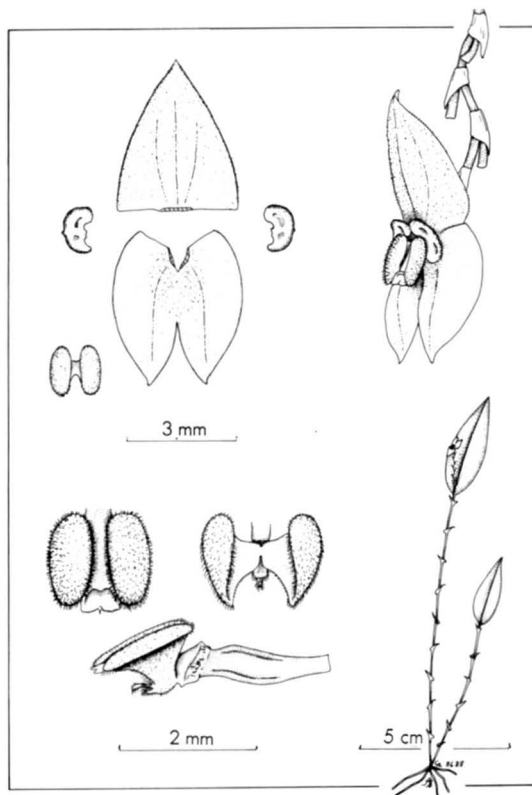


Fig. 14. *Lepanthes crescentiformis*