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Lepanthes equus-frisiae PUPULIN & MEDINA. A – Habit. B – Flower. C – Perianth flatten. D – Column and lip, lateral view. E – Lip. F – Petal. G – Apex of the column. H – Detail of the ramicaul.

Lepanthes equus-frisiae PUPULIN & MEDINA, sp. nov.

A *Lepanthes micellilabiae* LUER & R. ESCOBAR similis, distincta sepalibus liberis basaliter trichomatibus instructis, petalis transverse rheniformi-suborbicularis rotundatis concavis, labello subsphaerico late obtuso; a *Lepanthes rigidigitatae* LUER & HIRTZ habito caespitose et inflorescentia congesta praecipue recedit.

Type. Ecuador. Carchi: El Laurel, road to Maldonado, ca. 2.400 m, collected by H. MEDINA, 1993, flowered in cultivation in the collection of Ecuagenera at Gualaceo, Accession No. 001588, 13 Feb. 2009, F. PUPULIN 7795.

Epiphytic, caespitose, suberect to prostrate **herb**, to 3.5 cm tall. **Roots** filiform, flexuous, to 0.3 mm in diameter. **Ramicauls** slender, 13–24 mm long, enclosed by 6–12 tightening, lepanthiform, scabriuscle sheaths to 4 mm long, the ostia dilated, subacuminate, minutely ciliate along the margins. **Leaf** subcoriaceous, flat, slightly conduplicate, narrowly ovate-elliptic, minutely retuse, 7–9 × 4.0–8.5 mm, the prominent abaxial midvein protruding within the sinus to form a rounded apicule. **Inflorescence** racemose, distichous, successively flowered, borne above the leaf, to 11 mm long; peduncle filiform, terete, to 6.5 mm long; rachis zig-zag. **Floral bracts** amplexant, broadly ovate, obtuse, minutely verrucose, ca. 0.7 mm long. **Pedicel** terete, minutely verrucose toward the apex, 1.8 mm long. **Ovary** cylindric-subclavate, 1 mm long, rounded-subwinged in section, the wings membranous. **Flowers** spreading, the sepals pale reddish

Lepanthes equus-frisiae
Flower from the plant that served as
the holotype.



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brown, the dorsal sepal flushed rose-purple along the central vein, the trichomes on the lateral sepals margins white, the petals pink, the lip and the column rose-purple. **Dorsal sepal** triangular-lanceolate, acute, 3-veined, 5.0 x 1.5 mm, convex at the base, concave toward the apex, connate to the lateral sepals for about 0.7 mm. **Lateral sepals** narrowly lanceolate, sub-falcate, acute, 1-veined, 4.5 x 1.2 mm, sparsely ciliate along the margins toward the base, more so on the external side, connate at the base 0.5 mm. **Petals** transversely rheniform-sub-orbicular, rounded, concave, 0.30 x 0.35 mm, finely velutine. **Lip** subspherical, broadly obtuse, 0.3 x 0.4 mm, the base cordate, the adaxial surface concave, adpressed to the column, minutely setose. **Column** elongate, straight, 2.8 mm long, the clinandrium dorsal, the rostellum and the stigma apical. **Anther cap** cucullate, 2-celled. Pollinia 2.

Habitat: Plants of *L. equus-frisiae* have been found in the northern Ecuadorian province of Carchi, where they grow epiphytically in cold and cloud forest with high humidity, at about 2.400 meters of elevation. They have been observed growing on small branchlets in the forest understory, only partially exposed to sunlight.

Distribution: Ecuador, known only from the type locality.

Derivation of name: From the Latin 'equus', horse, and 'Frisia', the region on the western coasts of Germany and the Netherlands, in reference to the similarity of the flower to the Frisian horse (or 'cheval de frise'), a type of military defensive obstacle first used by Frisians in the late XVIth Century.

Lepanthes equus-frisiae is similar to the Colombian *L. micellilabia* LUER & R. ESCOBAR, from which it can be distinguished by the free sepals, sparsely trichomatous at the base (vs. basally connate, glabrous), transversely rheniform-suborbicular, rounded, concave petals (vs. transversely bilobed, with a marginal tooth between the lobes, flat) and the subspherical, broadly obtuse lip (vs. cordate, acute). Florally, *L. equus-frisiae* is also similar to *L. rigidigitata* LUER & HIRTZ, described from Ecuador, which has transversely ovate-

hastate, broadly obtuse, flat petals and a transversely subquadrate, truncate, apiculate, glabrous lip. Vegetatively, however, the latter species has a scandent habit, with erect, lax inflorescence, while plants of *L. equus-frisiae* are caespitose, with a pendent, congest raceme.