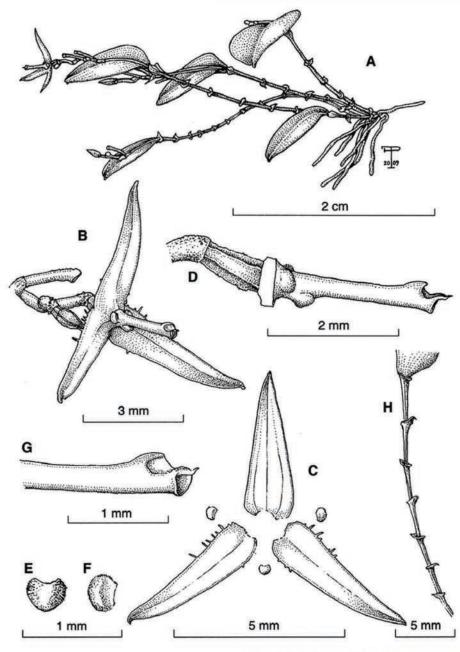
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Lepanthes equus-frisiae Pupulin & MEDINA. **A** — Habit. **B** — Flower.

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 Lepanthi micellilabiae LUER & R. ESCOBAR similis, distincta sepalibus liberis basaliter trichomatibus instructis, petalis transverse rheniformi-suborbicularis rotundatis concavis, labello subsphaerico late obtuso; a Lepanthi rigidigitatae LUER & HIRTZ habito caespitoso 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, cespitose, 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, scabriuscule 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 x 4.0-8.5 mm, the prominent abaxial midvein protruding within the sinus to form a rounded apicule. Inflorescence racemose, distichous, succesively flowered, borne above the leaf, to 11 mm long; peduncle filform, terete, to 6.5 mm long; rhachis zig-zag. Floral bracts amplectent, broadly ovate, obtuse, minutely verucose, ca.o.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

brown, the dorsal sepal flushed rosepurple 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, subfalcate, acute, 1-veined, 4.5 x 1.2 mm, sparsely cilate along the margins toward the base, more so on the external side, connate at the base 0.5 mm. Petals transversely rheniform-suborbicular, 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: Ecaudor, 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 cespitose, with a pendent, congest raceme.