

Lepanthes evansiae Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 90.

Ety.: Named for Mary Evans of Quito, Ecuador, co-discoverer of this species.

Planta parva, inflorescentia congesta disticha longipedicellata parviflora folio ovato plus minusve aequilonga, sepalis acuminatis, petalis bilobis minutis, labello bilobo lobis triangularibus minutis, appendice oblonga pubescenti.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 20-35 mm long, enclosed by 7-8 microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, ovate, acute, 20-23 mm long, 7-10 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1-2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 8 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 10-15 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long, muricate; pedicels 2-3 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; **sepals** yellow, suffused with rose medially, carinate externally along the veins, the dorsal sepal oblong-ovate, acute, lightly contracted in the distal third, 2.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.25 mm, the lateral sepals ciliate on the outer margin near the base, triangular, oblique, acute, acuminate, 2.75 mm long, 1 mm wide, 2-veined, essentially free, spreading; **petals** red, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.25 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, the upper lobe obliquely oblong, obtuse, the lower lobe longer, triangular, narrowly obtuse; **lip** red, cellular-pubescent, bilobed, the lobes triangular with the outer margin thickened, 0.75 mm long, the apex and base narrowly rounded, the body connate to the base of the column, the sinus protuberant with a minute, oblong, pubescent appendix; **column** stout, 0.75 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Bolivar: epiphytic wet virgin forest west of La Palma, alt. 1250 m, 10 Mar. 1991, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, X. Hirtz, F. Navarro, M. Navarro, J. Del Hierro & M. Evans 14972 (Holotype: MO).

The lobes of the very small lip of this species have not evolved well-developed laminae, the outer margin being merely thickened. Similar poorly developed blades are seen in *L. kuijii*, and *L. elaminata*. Otherwise, *L. evansiae* is characterized by congested, distichous, long-pedicellate raceme that eventually surpasses the leaf. The sepals are narrow and acute, and the petals are minute. The stout column is larger than the lip.

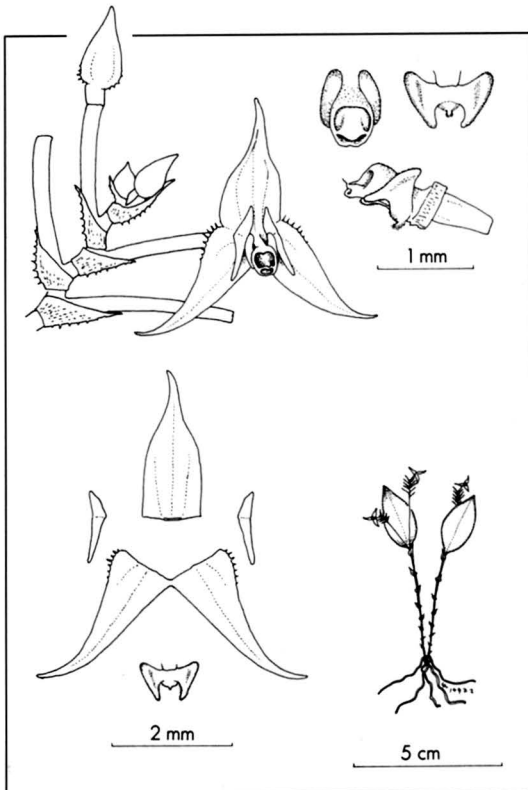


Fig. 90. *Lepanthes evansiae*