

***Lepanthes fusiformis* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta parva caespitosa, foliis linearifusiformibus crassissimis vel anguste teretibus racemo fractiflexo congesto duplolongioribus, sepalis ovatis acutis ciliatis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis oblongis acutis, appendice spathulata.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots very slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 3-7 cm long, enclosed by 4-6 close lepanthiform sheaths, minutely ciliate. Leaf erect, narrowly ovate, fleshy-thickened to terete, acute, 20-43 mm long, 5-6 mm wide, 4-5 mm thick, the base narrowly cuneate into a 2-3 mm long petiole. Inflorescence a congested, lightly zigzag, successively flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 18 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; sepals red with yellow margins, ciliate, ovate, acute, the dorsal sepal 3.66 mm long, 2 mm wide, the lateral sepals oblique, 3 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, connate to about the middle; petals red, edged in yellow, transversely oblong, 0.66 mm long, 2.66 mm wide, the upper lobe longer, the apices rounded; lip red-orange, the blades of the lateral lobes oblong, 1.2 mm long, the apices acute, the bases rounded, the connectives cuneate, connate to the under surface of the column, the appendix spathulate, 0.5 mm long, protruding beyond the sinus; column 1 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

**Etymology:** From the Latin *fusiformis*, "narrowly ellipsoid," referring to the leaf.

**Type:** *ECUADOR*: LOJA: epiphytic in cloud forest south of Yangana, alt. 2450 m, 12 May 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer, D. D'Alessandro et al. 6210 (Holotype: SEL); same area, 3 March 1982, C. Luer et al. 7086 (SEL).

*Lepanthes fusiformis* grows locally abundantly near the locality where *L. teres* was found. They are the only two known species in the genus with terete leaves. This species is distinguished by the ciliated dorsal sepal, narrow petals, and the proportionately large, spathulate appendix.