

Lepanthes glabella Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 106.

Ety.: From the diminutive of the Latin *glaber*, "smooth, without hair," referring to the glabrous properties of this species.

Planta parva, inflorescentia congesta secunda parviflora folio ovato brevior, sepalis ovatis acuminatis glabris, petalis bilobatis lobis triangularibus glabris, labelli laminis oblongis glabris, appendice parva rotundata.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender. Ramicauls slender, suberect, 3-7 cm long, enclosed by 7-10 lepanthiform sheaths, with the dilated ostia sparsely ciliate. **Leaf** spreading, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, ovate, acute, 3-4.5 cm long, 1-1.3 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, secund, successively several-flowered raceme, up to 6 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 3-6 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long; pedicels 1.5-2 mm long; ovary 2.5-3 mm long; **sepals** ovate, acute, acuminate, carinate externally along the veins, glabrous, the dorsal sepal purple, concave, 5.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.75 mm, the lateral sepals yellow, oblique, 6 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm, spreading; **petals** green, glabrous, transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the upper lobe obliquely triangular, obtuse, the lower lobe triangular, narrowly obtuse; **lip** green with the inner margins of the blades purple, glabrous, bilaminar, the blades oblong with rounded ends, 2 mm long, the body narrow, connate to the base of the column, the sinus with a small, rounded appendix; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral with a pedunculated process in association with the appendix.

Bolivar: epiphytic wet virgin forest west of La Palma, alt. 1250 m, 12 Mar. 1991, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, X. Hirtz, F. Navarro, M. Navarro, J. Del Hierro & M. Evans 14972 (Holotype: MO).

This species is characterized by the colorful, glabrous flower with acuminate sepals that is produced successively upon the dorsum of the leaf. The dorsal sepal is purple, the lateral sepals are yellow, and the petals are green. The oblong blades of the lip are green with purple inner margins. The column is short and stout with a ventral stigma. From within the stigmatic cavity along the inner margin a pedunculated process is held in front of the small, rounded appendix.

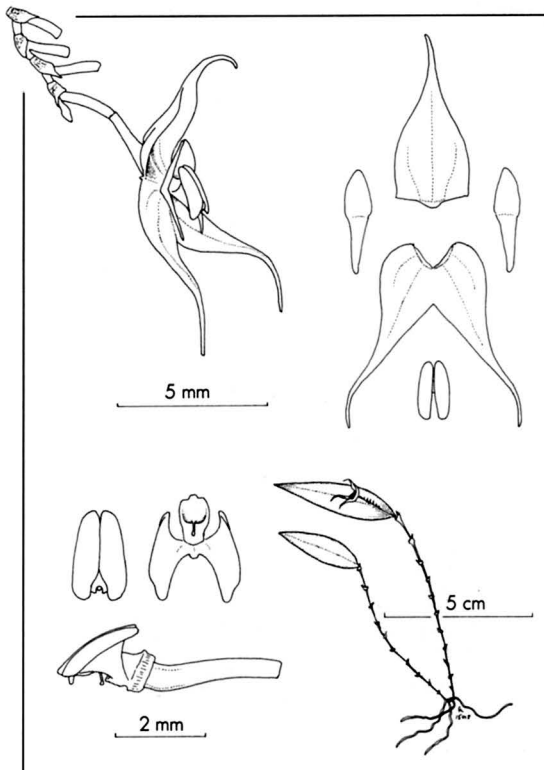


Fig. 106. *Lepanthes glabella*