

Lepanthes gloris Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 272.

Ety.: From the Latin *glos, gloris*, "of the sister-in-law," referring to the close relationship of the sympatric *L. generi*, the "brother-in-law."

Planta parva, inflorescentia cum racemo congesto disticho brevipedicellato folio angustissime ovato acuminato brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis minutissime pubescentibus, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore oblongo anguste obtuso lobo inferiore longiore, lobo inferiore angustissime triangulari, labelli laminis oblongis minute pubescentibus, connectivis late cuneatis, appendice concava pubescenti.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls very slender, erect, 3-6 cm long, enclosed by 10-11 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with acuminate ostia. **Leaf** suffused with purple, erect, thinly coriaceous, very narrowly ovate, acute, acuminate, 2.5-5 cm long, 0.5-0.9 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, short-pedicellate, successively many-flowered raceme up to 15 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 5-15 mm long; floral bracts 0.5 mm long, glabrous; pedicels 0.9 mm long; ovary 0.8 mm long; **sepals** light green, minutely ciliate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, subacute, 2.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, subacute, 2.75 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 0.75 mm; **petals** brown, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, narrowly obtuse at the tip, slightly longer than the lower lobe, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, acute; **lip** brown, bilaminar, the laminae oblong, convex, 1 mm long, minutely pubescent, with the bases and apices rounded, the connectives broad, with the anterior margin as long as the posterior margin, connate to the base of the column, the appendix broadly concave, pubescent; **column** 1 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: **Carchi**: south of Chical, Cerro Oscuro, alt. 2100 m, May 1997, A. Hirtz 6551 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 18686.

This species is a member of subsection *Lepanthes* series *Lepanthes*. It is apparently endemic in northwestern Ecuador, is similar to another sympatric species from which it is distinguished by very narrow leaves; short-pedicellate, distichous racemes; broader sepals and petals; and a lip with the anterior margins of the connectives as long as the posterior margins.

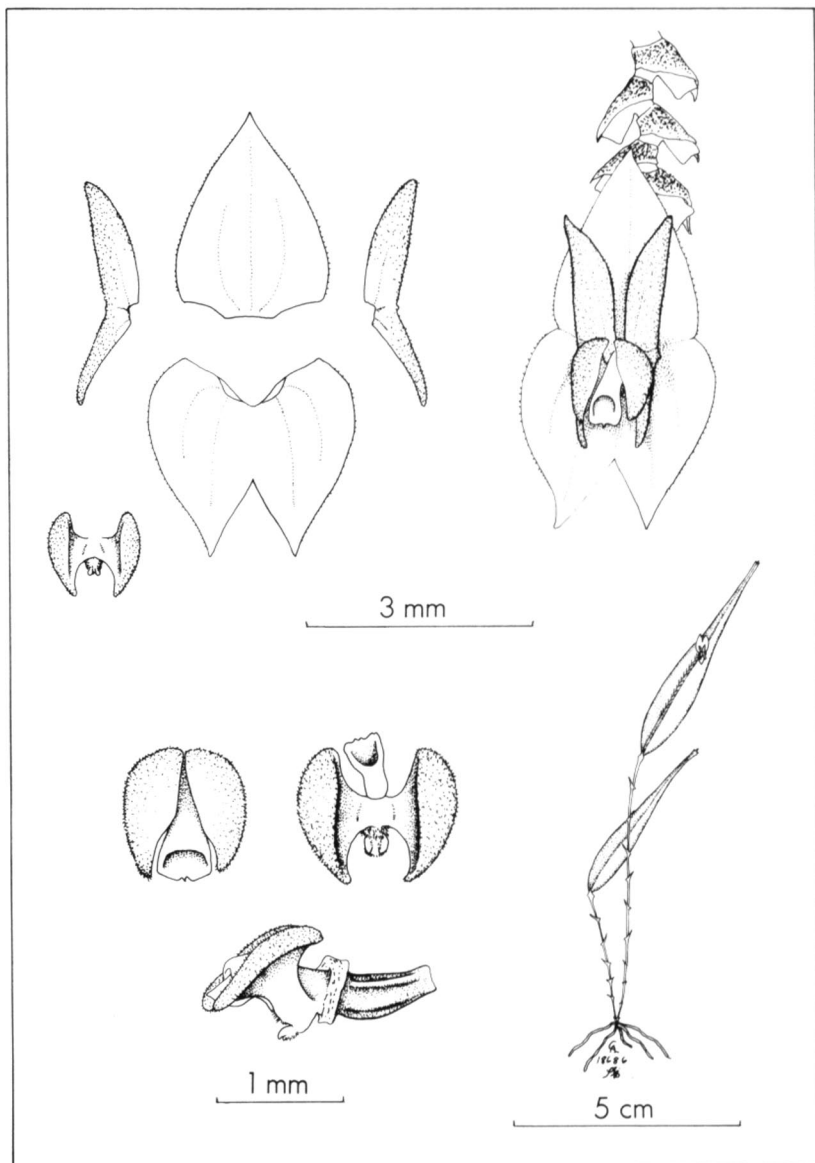


Fig. 272. *Lepanthes gloris*