

***Lepanthes glossites* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *glossa*, "tongue" referring to the close alliance of *L. ligulata*.

Species haec *L. ligulatae* Luer & Hirtz affinis, sed habitu floribusque majoribus, vaginis longissimis, racemo laxifloro, sepalis non-acuminatis, et columna proportionem minore differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 5-8 cm long, enclosed by 5-6 long, tightly fitting, microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, 5 cm long, 1 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 5 mm long. Inflorescence a lax, successively several-flowered raceme, up to 4 cm or more long, borne by a filiform peduncle 9-20 mm long, in front of the leaf; floral bracts 1.5-2 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals light yellow, carinate, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, acute, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 4.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm; petals dark purple, cellular-glabrous, transversely bilobed, 1.25 mm long, 3 mm wide, 1-veined, the upper lobe oblong, subtruncate, the lower lobe slightly smaller, oblong-triangular, rounded at the apex; lip dark purple, microscopically pubescent, bilaminar, 1.5 mm long, with the lobes oblong, obtuse, the connectives from the base, narrowly oblong, with the body narrow, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse with a deflexed, narrowly triangular, minutely ciliate appendix; column 1.75 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

PERU: Amazonas, Mirador, collected by Cordelia Head, Oct. 1995, cultivated at J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, 31 May 1997, *C. Luer 18507* (Holotype: MO).

This species, discovered in the northern Peruvian department of Amazonas, is closely related to *L. ligulata* of central Bolivia. *Lepanthes glossites* differs in the much longer ramicaul with a few, long sheaths, and a larger, narrowly elliptical leaf. The raceme is laxly flowered instead of congested, and the sepals are merely acute, not acuminate. The lip and column are very similar except that the gynostemium of *L. ligulata* is proportionally larger and arcuate, protruding beyond the blades of the lip.

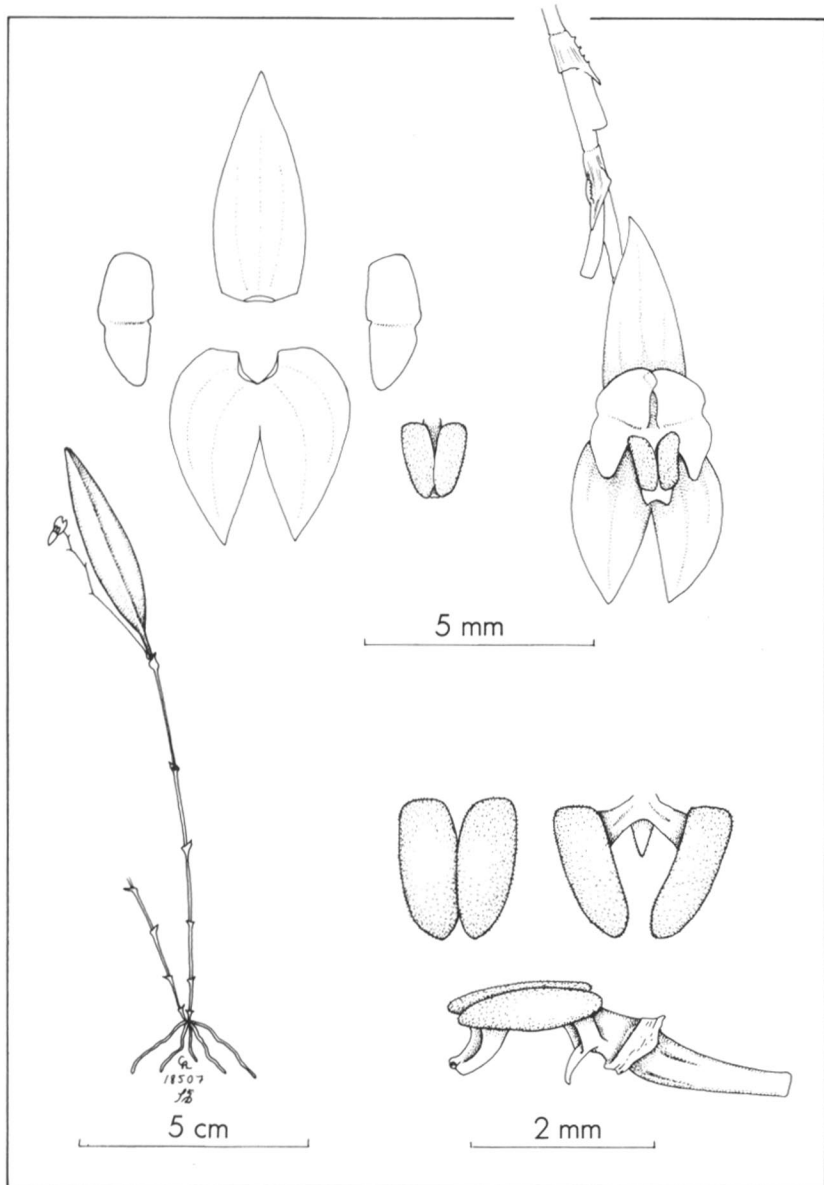


Fig. 18a. *Lepanthes glossites*