

Lepanthes grypha Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia folio anguste elliptico acuminato brevior, racemo congesto, sepalis glabris breviter acuminatis, petalis grandibus transverse oblongis, labelli laminis oblongis planis ciliatis, connectivis angustis erectis, corpore subsphaerico pubescenti appendice antice conica pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, weak, 5-11.5 cm long, enclosed by 9-11 microscopically scabrous lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect to horizontal, thinly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-ovate, acute, acuminate, 4.5-7 cm long, 1-1.5 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested, successively flowered raceme to 15 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 10-25 mm long on top of the leaf; floral bract 1.5 mm long, pedicel 2 mm long, ovary 2 mm long; sepals light green, glabrous, the dorsal sepal triangular, 4 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, the apex acute, shortly acuminate, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, connate 1.5 mm, 3.5 mm long, 3.75 mm wide together, the margins minutely sub-irregular, the acute, acuminate apices close; petals greenish brown, transversely oblong, bilobed, 1.25 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, shortly pubescent, the lobes oblong, obtuse, the lower lobe smaller; lip greenish brown, the blades flat, oblong, 1.66 mm long, ciliate, adherent to each other medially over the column, the ends rounded, the connectives narrowly cuneate, erect, lifting the blades above the column, connate to the column at the base, the body thickened, subspherical, pubescent, the appendix conical, pubescent, protruding from the front of the body; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etmology: Named for a *grypha*, a mythological creature, half lion and half eagle, referring to the appearance of the central apparatus.

Type: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: epiphytic in cloud forest between San Juan and Chiriboga, alt.ca. 2000 m, 7 March 1982, A. Hirtz and X. Leon 210 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9073.

This species with a short, congested inflorescence lying upon the narrowly acuminate leaf is notable for the large pubescent petals, flat, winglike blades of the lip elevated over the column by narrow connectives from a pubescent, subspherical body with the conical appendix protruding from the front surface.