

***Lepanthes hamiltonii* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named in honor of A.C. Hamilton, who with P.M. Holligan, collected this species.

Planta mediocris, folio ovato ramicaulibus cum vaginis fuscatis dense ciliatis brevior, racemo congesto brevi, sepalis anguste acuminatis, petalorum lobis quadratis, labello suborbiculato in lobos lunatos inciso cum appendice minuta distinguitur.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 5-8 cm long, enclosed by 7-9 dark, coarsely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, subacute, 14-24 mm long, 8-13 mm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively several-flowered raceme, up to 5 mm or more long, borne by a filiform peduncle ca. 4 mm long, behind the leaf; floral bracts dark, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 0.5 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; sepals described as bight to dull red, subcarinate, glabrous, the dorsal sepal elliptical, acute, acuminate, 6 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate-triangular, oblique, acute, attenuate, 6 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 1 mm; petals glabrous, transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 1-veined, the lobes subequal, subquadrate, truncate; lip suborbicular, 1.75 mm long, 1.75 mm wide expanded, incised anteriorly into lunate lobes with the obtuse apices and bases, the margins thickened toward the base in an attempt to form a lamina, the body broad, connate to the base of the lip, the sinus obtuse with a minute, rounded appendix; column 1.75 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

PERU: San Martín: Huallaga, valley of Río Apisoncho, alt. 3600 m, 12 Aug. 1965, A.C. Hamilton & P.M. Holligan 1260 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 16401.

This species, apparently endemic in central Peru, is characterized by a small, ovate leaf that is conspicuously shorter than the dark, densely ciliate-sheathed ramicaul that bears it. The flowers are borne in a short raceme behind the leaf. The sepals are acuminate; the lobes of the petals are subquadrate and about equal in size; and the lip is circular and incised anteriorly into two lunate lobes.

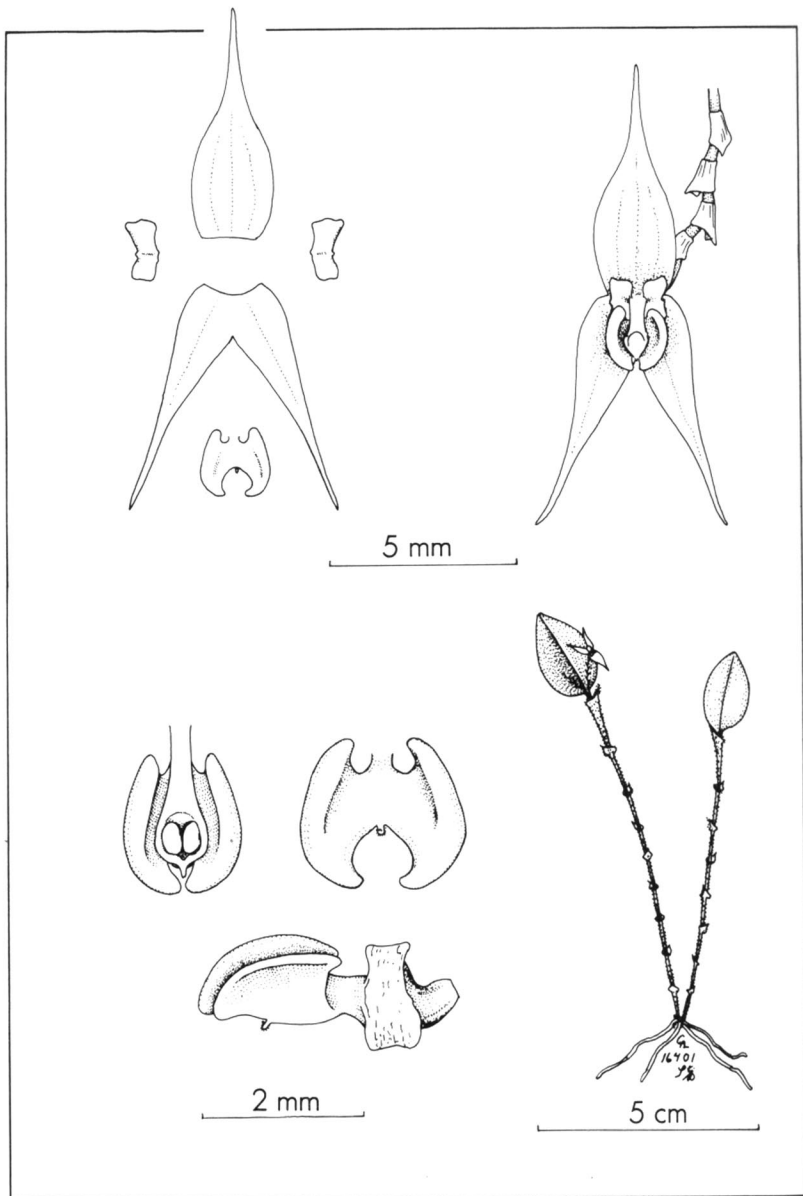


Fig. 19a. *Lepanthes hamiltonii*