

***Lepanthes hirtzii* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta grandis caespitosa, racemo subdenso multifloro folio elliptico acuminato aequilongo vel paulo longiore, floribus grandibus, sepalis in cupulam non profundam connatis, petalis transverse rhomboideis, labelli laminis ellipticis ciliatis, appendice minutissima triglandulosa glabra.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender; secondary stems erect, slender to stout, 7-30 cm long, enclosed by 8-15 close, glabrous to microscopically scabrous lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical 8-12 cm long, 2-4.5 cm wide, the apex long-acuminate, the base broadly cuneate into a petiole 5-7 mm long. Inflorescence a densely to subdensely flowered raceme 8-10 cm long, rarely to 14 cm long, including the peduncle 5-8 cm long, 2-3 flowers open simultaneously; floral bract 2 mm long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long, curved, narrowly winged; sepals orange with brown or purple veins, carinate, ovate, acute, acuminate, minutely ciliate or glabrous, the dorsal sepal 11 mm long, 9 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 4 mm to form a shallow cup, the margins of all 3 sepals more or less erose and dilated above the angles of connation, the lateral sepals oblique, 11 mm long, 6 mm wide, connate 3 mm; petals yellow, more or less suffused with brown or purple, transversely elliptical, 1.25 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, minutely pubescent, the lobes about equal, subtriangular, obtuse; lip orange to brown, the blades elliptical, 2 mm long, minutely ciliate, the ends rounded, the connectives broadly cuneate, connate to the column above the base, the appendix very small with a rounded gland bearing a pair of even smaller terminal rounded glands, glabrous; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Named in honor of Alexander C. Hirtz of Quito, Ecuador, who has discovered innumerable species of orchids new to science.

Type: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: epiphytic in cloud forest between Quito and Tandapi, alt. ca. 3000 m, 28 Oct. 1979, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4394* (Holotype: SEL); LOJA: epiphytic in cloud forest at the pass north of Loja, alt. 3100 m, 30 Oct. 1982, *C. Luer & R. Escobar 8246* (SEL); cloud forest east of Yangana, alt. 2650 m, 4 Mar. 1982, *C. Luer et al. 7145* (SEL); *COLOMBIA*: PUTUMAYO: cloud forest between La Cocha and Sibundoy, alt. ca. 2700 m, 30 July 1978, *C. Luer et al. 3118* (SEL).

This large species may be distinguished from *L. nanegalensis* Rchb. f. and *L. rhombipetala* Schltr. by the larger flowers with the sepals connate into a shallow cup. The sepals are more or less erose and dilated above their connation. The petals are without the minute appendages on the outer margin as in *L. rhombipetala*. Differing from both, the appendix of *L. hirtzii* is a minute glabrous gland bearing a pair of even more minute rounded terminal glands.