

Lepanthes hispidosa Luer & Jost, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *hispidosus*, "very hispid," referring to the sheaths of the ramicauls.

Planta parva, ramicaulium vaginis hispidosis, racemo disticho congesto folio anguste elliptico acuto brevior, sepalis glabris ovatis acutis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore obtuso, lobo inferiore minore, labelli lamina oblongis crassis, corpore lato cum appendice extus cristiformi distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls stout, erect, 6-8 cm long, enclosed by 11-14 densely long-hispid, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, narrowly elliptical, acute, 5 cm long, 1 cm wide, the base cuneate. Inflorescence a distichous, congested, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 10 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle ca. 15 mm long; floral bracts echinate, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals yellowish white, glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate-triangular, acute, 3.8 mm long, 3.2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm; petals golden yellow, suffused with red, microscopically cellular, transversely bilobed, 1.2 mm long, 3 mm wide, 2-veined, the upper lobe ovate with the apex rounded, 2 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, the lower lobe triangular, acute, incurved, 1.2 mm long, 0.6 mm wide; lip golden yellow, suffused with red, bilaminar, the blades microscopically pubescent, oblong, narrowly obtuse at the apex, rounded at the base, 1.2 mm long, flanking the column, the connectives thick, broadly cuneate, forming a broad, thick, concave body, connate to the base of the column, the appendix external, crest-like; column 1.2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: Morona-Santiago: near Cunanda, alt. 1110 m, 17 Aug. 1998, *L. Jost 1092* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19171.

Vegetatively, this species resembles *L. pteropogon* Rchb.f. with the densely long-ciliate sheaths of the ramicauls; an acute, narrowly elliptical leaf; and a shorter, congested raceme. The flowers differ greatly with the sepals of *L. hispidosa* glabrous and entire, and the appendix crest-like on the external surface of the body of the lip.

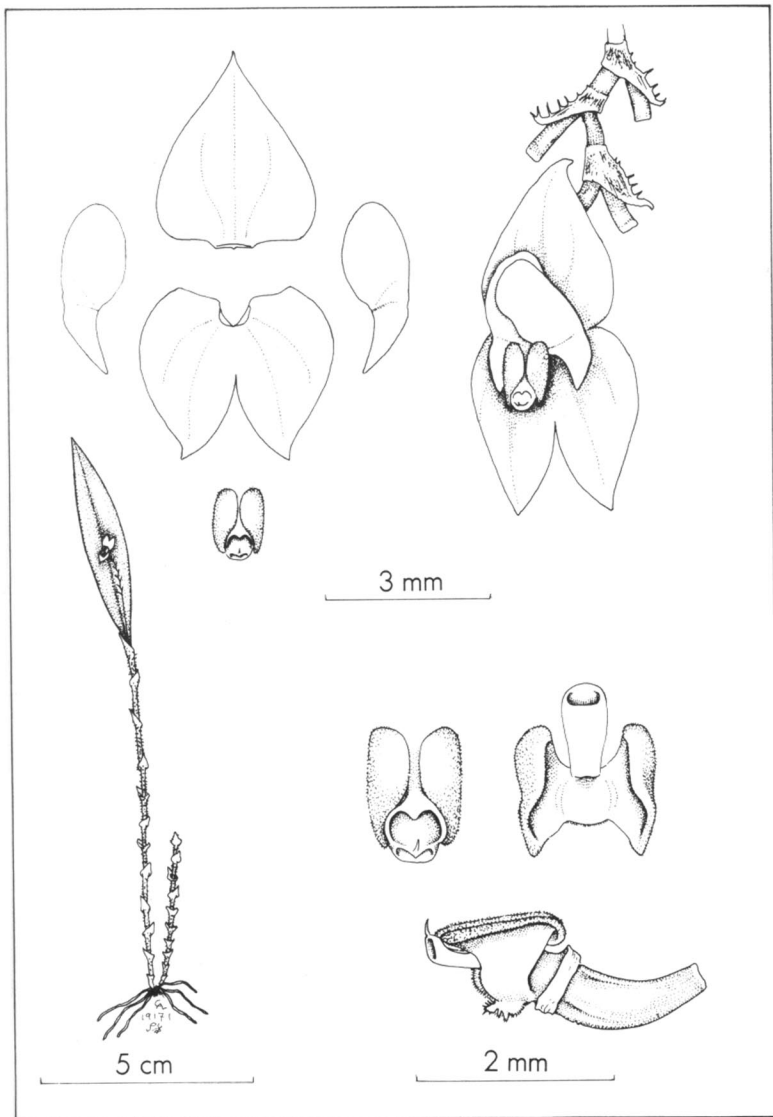


Fig. 297. *Lepanthes hispida*