

Lepanthes homotaxis Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta perparva caespitosa, racemo subdensifloro folio elliptico acuto subaequilongo, flore minuto, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque ovatis similibus, petalis bifurcatis lobis triangularibus similibus, labello pubescenti transverse bilobato rotundato.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 2-3 cm long, enclosed by 6-9 close, microscopically scabrous lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 13-18 mm long, 7-9 mm wide, the base obtuse to rounded, contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a subdense, successively flowered raceme up to 16 mm long including the filiform peduncle, along the back side of the leaf; flowers very small, light yellow-green, glabrous; floral bract less than 1 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 1.75 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, 1-veined, the lateral sepals connate into a synsepal similar to the dorsal sepal, ovate, the acute apex minutely notched, 1.75 mm long, 1.25 mm wide; petals forked, bilobed, 0.6 mm long, 1 mm wide, the lobes equal, oblong-triangular, subacute, spreading 90°; lip transversely cordate-bilobed, 0.6 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, pubescent, the apex cleft with a minute apiculum in the sinus, the apices and bases of the lobes rounded, the lower lobes flanking the column, the base connate to the under surface of the middle of the column; column 0.8 mm long, cylindrical, the anther and stigma apical.

Etymology: From the Greek *homo-*, "similar," and *taxis*, "an arrangement," referring to the similarity of the halves of the floral parts.

Type: *ECUADOR*: MORONA-SANTIAGO: epiphytic in cloud forest between Gualaceo and Limon, alt. 2050 m, 29 Oct. 1982, *C. Luer, R. Escobar & A. Pozo 8228* (Holotype: SEL).

This tiny species is characterized by the minute flowers with a similar dorsal sepal and synsepal, similar upper and lower lobes of the forked petals, and a pubescent, transversely bilobed lip joined to the middle of a cylindrical column.