

Lepanthes horribilis Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 119.

Ety.: From the Latin *horribilis*, "frightful," referring to the appearance of the flower.

Species haec *L. fiskei* Luer affinis, sed sepalorum marginibus revolutis cum apicibus lateralium approximatis, petalorum lobo superiore uncinato differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender. Ramicauls slender, suberect, 4-9 cm long, enclosed by 10-14 lepanthiform sheaths with dilated, acuminate, ciliate ostia. **Leaf** more or less horizontal, coriaceous, suffused with purple, rugose-verrucose with minutely ciliate margins, ovate, acute, lightly acuminate, with the sides recurved, 4.5-8 cm long, 1.5-2.4 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, secund, successively few-flowered raceme, up to 5 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 15-20 mm long; floral bracts 1.5 mm long, submuricate; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 5 mm long; **sepals** red-brown, with erose-ciliate margins, the dorsal ovate, broadly obtuse, 8 mm long, 6 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, with the apex abruptly contracted into a tail 2 mm long, with the sides revolute, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 8 mm long, connate 4 mm into a bifid lamina 8 mm wide expanded, 4-veined, concave in the distal third to form a midline carina, with the sides undulate, the apices approximate, acute, acuminate into slender tails 6 mm long; **petals** green, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the upper lobe obovate, subtruncate, with the inner angle uncinatate, the lower lobe equally long, narrowly triangular, narrowly obtuse; **lip** green, suffused with rose, glabrous, bilaminar, the laminae oblong with rounded ends, 3 mm long, longitudinally carinate along on the basal two-thirds, with the apical thirds concave, the body broad, from above the middle of the blades, connate to the base of the column, the sinus with a small, oblong appendix; **column** terete, 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

Bolívar: epiphytic wet virgin forest west of La Palma, alt. 1250 m, 10 Mar. 1991, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, X. Hirtz, F. Navarro, M. Navarro, J. Del Hierro & M. Evans 14973 (Holotype: MO).

Cotopaxi: trail from Corazón to Facundo Vela, alt. 1300-1400 m, 17 May 1980, G. Harling & L. Anderson 19196 (GB).

This species from the western slopes of Ecuador is related to *L. fiskei* and *L. gargoyla* from the eastern declivities. From them *L. horribilis* is distinguished by the roughly corrugated leaves and a fierce-looking, brown flower lying upon the prickly surface. The sides of the dorsal sepal are markedly revolute while the sides of the lateral sepals are undulate. The lateral sepals are concave below the middle and form a tall, carina-like fold in the midline. The apices of the lateral sepals are approximate and acuminate into slender tails.

In the center of the flower the prominent, green petals flank the lip. The upper lobes of the petals are hook-shaped. The blades of the not-too-unusual are oblong with a carina down the middle. The small, oblong appendix is not remarkable.

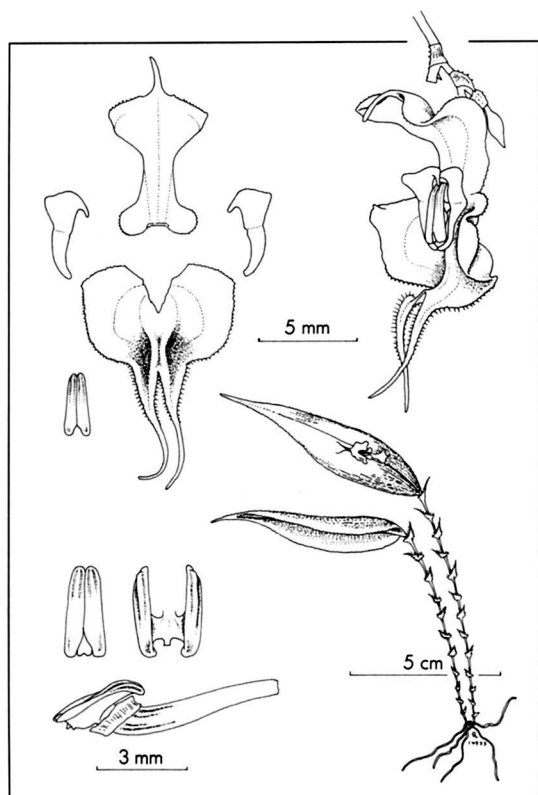


Fig. 119. *Lepanthes horribilis*