

**Lepanthes longiacuminata** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 273.

Ety.: From the Latin *longiacuminatus*, "long-acuminate," referring to the apex of the leaf.

Planta mediocris, inflorescentia cum racemo congesto disticho folio longiacuminato brevior, sepalis late ovatis obtusis caudatis sparsim minute ciliatis, petalis transverse bilobis minute pubescentibus, lobo superiore obcuneato truncato, lobo inferiore triangulari minore, labelli laminis ovatis minute pubescentibus, connectivis late cuneatis, corpore ad basim columnae connato, appendice ovata concava ciliata.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 7-10 cm long, enclosed by 9-13 microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with acuminate apices. **Leaf** suberect to spreading, thinly coriaceous, broadly ovate, obtuse, acuminate into a slender, elongate process, 2.5-4.5 cm long, 1.5-2 cm wide, the base rounded, contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 7 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 10-13 mm long; floral bracts 0.5 mm long, echinate; pedicels 0.8 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** light yellow, sparsely minutely ciliate, the dorsal sepal transversely ovate, obtuse, 2.6 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.3 mm, the lateral sepals oblong-ovate, oblique, obtuse, shortly acuminate, 2.6 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 0.6 mm; **petals** orange, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the upper lobe obcuneate, obliquely truncate, 1.6 mm long, 1.6 mm wide at the apex, the lower lobe triangular, acute, 1.2 mm long, 0.5 mm wide; **lip** purple, bilaminate, the blades ovate, 1.5 mm long, microscopically pubescent, with the bases rounded and the apices narrow, incurved, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the appendix ovoid, concave, ciliate; **column** 1 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: **Carchi**: south of Chical, Cerro Oscuro, alt. 2100 m, May 1997, A. Hirtz 6555 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 18684.

This species, apparently endemic in northwestern Ecuador, is distinguished by the rounded leaves with acuminate apices nearly as long as the blades. The congested raceme is borne on top of the leaf. The sepals are broadly ovate and obtuse. The upper lobe of the petals is broadly truncate, much larger than the triangular lower lobe. The narrow apices of the ovate blades of the lip surround the column. The connectives are broad with a broad body attached to the base of the column. The appendix is concave and ciliate. The above characters place this species in sub-section *Lepanthes* series *Lepanthes*.

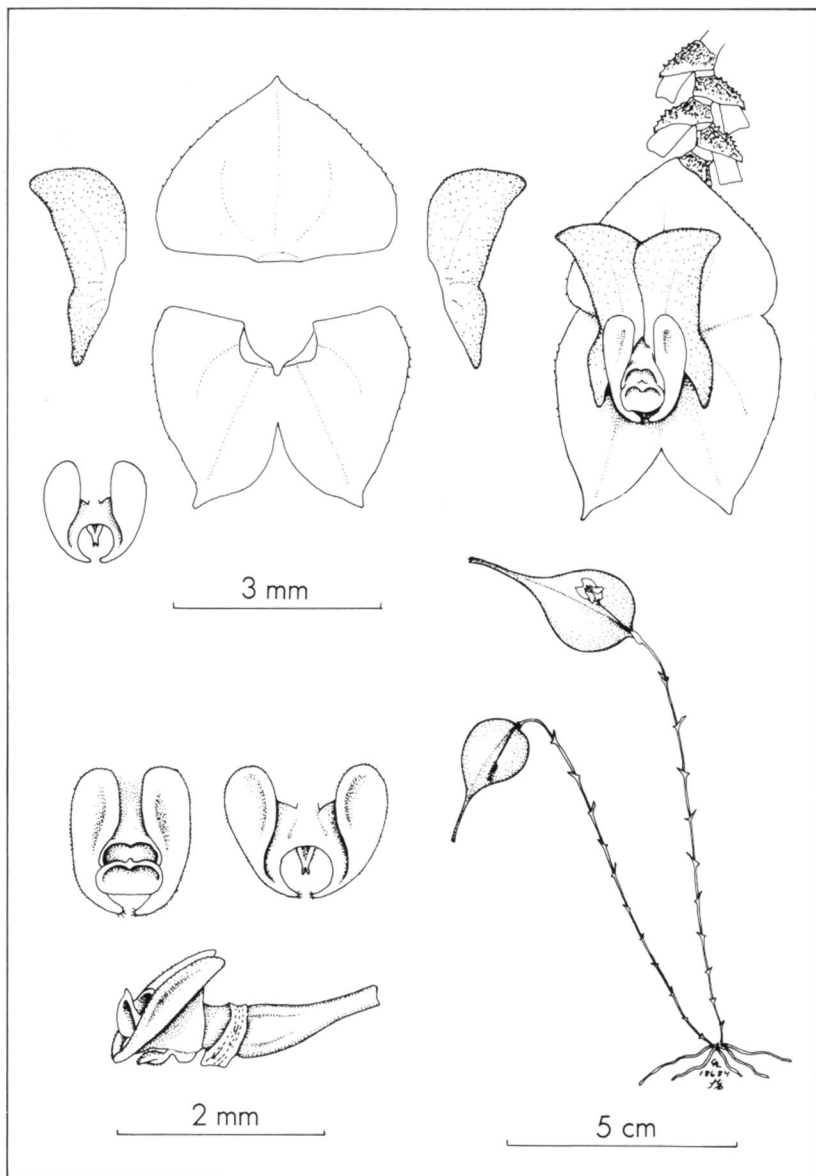


Fig. 273. *Lepanthes longiacuminata*