

Lepanthes lophius Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa pulchra, inflorescentia folio anguste ovato brevior, racemo congesto fractiflexo, sepalis anguste attenuatis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis oblongis, appendice spathulata pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 3-8.5 cm long, enclosed by a 10-14 ciliated lepanthiform sheaths with markedly dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, purple beneath, narrowly ovate, acute, 3-5 cm long, 1.2-1.5 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 3-4 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, flexuous, successively flowered raceme up to 2 cm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 2.5 cm long, up the back of the leaf; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1.25 mm long; ovary 2 mm long, papillose; sepals purple with the outer thirds cream, carinate-spiculate, the dorsal sepal triangular, slightly concave, acute, attenuate, 11 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm to the lateral sepals, the margins distantly subserrulate, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate, oblique, acute, attenuate, 11 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm, the margins serrulate; petals orange, suffused with red-purple, transversely oblong, 2 mm long, 5 mm wide, the upper lobe more or less quadrate, truncate, the lower lobe shorter, narrowly oblong, obtuse; lip rose, the blades oblong with rounded ends, 2.66 mm long, ciliate anteriorly, the connectives cuneate, connate to the under surface of the column above the base, the appendix spathulate, pubescent; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Named for the genus of common anglers (*Lophius*) because of the similarity of the appendix to the pedunculated "bait" peculiar to these fish.

Type: *ECUADOR*: MORONA-SANTIAGO: epiphytic in cloud forest between Gualaceo and Limon, alt. 2650 m, 29 Oct. 1982, C. Luer, R. Escobar & A. Pozo 8212 (Holotype; SEL).

This species is notable for the congested raceme of pretty flowers with attenuated sepals and truncate petals. The blades of the lip are oblong, and the appendix is spathulate and pubescent. The appendix undoubtedly acts as a lure for pollinators, much the same as the pedunculated "bait" of an angler acts as a lure for a meal.