

Lepanthes maccolmiana Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 144.

Ety.: Named in honor of Mike McColm, creator and administrator of the Bilsa Biological Station where this species was discovered.

Species haec *L. larvinae* Luer & Escobar affinis, sed foliis late ovatis subcordatis et labelli connectivis latoribus basalibus differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2.5-5 cm long, enclosed by 6-8 dark, microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, transversely ovate, obtuse, 1.5-2 cm long, 1.7-2.4 mm wide, the base transverse or subcordate, abruptly contracted into a petiole 1.5-2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a very congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 5-10 mm long; floral bracts slightly echinate, 1-1.25 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** with red margins, glabrous, ovate, obtuse, shortly acuminate, the dorsal sepal 3.75 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for ca. 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** red, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1.25 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the upper lobe obliquely oblong, with the narrowly obtuse apex shortly decurved in the natural position, the lower lobe triangular; **lip** red, bilaminar, the laminae microscopically pubescent, elliptical with narrowly rounded ends, 2 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, with a protuberant, ovoid, pubescent appendix, with a smaller, basal segment beneath; **column** 2 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

Esmeraldas: Bilsa Biological Station, Montañas de Mache, west of Santa Isabel, alt. 400-600 m, 9 May 1985, *J. L. Clark & C. Watt 838* (MO; QCNE), C. Luer illustr. 17995.

This species is apparently endemic in lowland western Ecuador. In habit it resembles *L. tracheia* Rchb.f. with the transversely ovate leaves broadly subcordate at the base. The flowers, however, are very similar to those of *L. larvina* Luer & Escobar from a higher altitude in the Western Cordillera of Colombia. The sepals are obtuse and very shortly acuminate. In both species the petals are large with the tips of the elongate upper lobes deflexed in the natural position. The connectives of the blades of the lip are broad and above the middle, and the appendix is protuberant. The connectives of *L. larvina* are slender and near the middle, and the appendix lies against the outer surface of the body.

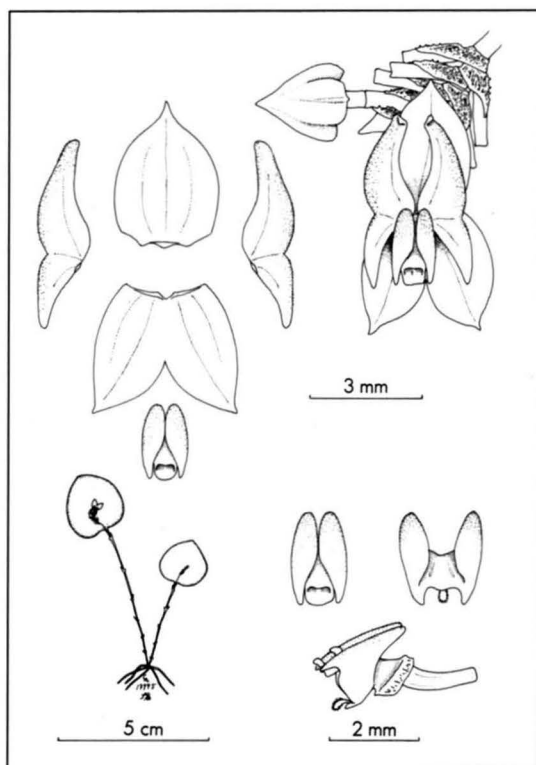


Fig. 144. *Lepanthes maccolmiana*