

LEPANTHES MANABINA Dodson

Lepanthes manabina Dodson, sp. nov.

Lepanthidis caudatisepalae C. Schweinf. similis sed vaginibus caulium majoribus ciliatis, apicibus foliorum caudatis, marginibus sepalorum ciliatis et lobis labelli triangularibus differt.

Epiphytic. Plant caespitose, to 22 cm tall; rhizome short, secondary stems slender, to 14 cm long, entirely concealed by 8 to 10 close, tubular-cylindric, sheaths terminating in a broadly flared, ovate mouth the margins of which are ciliate; unifoliate. Leaf ovate to narrowly ovate, long-caudate with a tridenticulate apex, cuneate at the base, 3-veined, short-petiolate at the base, to 8 x 3 cm. Inflorescences 1 or 2, shorter than the leaf, many-flowered; flowers produced singly in succession; rachis not-fractiflex, to 6 cm long. Flowers green with the petals and lip lilac; sepals spreading, ciliate on the margins; dorsal sepal broadly ovate, short-caudate at the apex, 3-nerved, 4 x 4 mm; lateral sepals narrower, obliquely ovate, caudate-acuminate, connate for about one-third their length, each one 2-nerved, equal to the dorsal sepal in length; petals smaller than the sepals, transversely and horizontally bilobed, the posterior lobule obliquely ovate, the anterior lobule narrowly ovate, narrower than the posterior lobule, 4 mm long; lip 3-lobed, adnate to the base of the column, the lateral lobes broadly triangular when spread, broadly rhombic across the flattened apex, 4 mm long, the mid-lobe small, flattened.

Epifítica; tallos secundarios rodeados por vainas claramente expandidas; hojas elípticas, acuminadas en el ápice, llanas en el borde, verde en ambos lados; inflorescencia en el lado de abajo de la hoja; flores producidas en sucesión durante un período prolongado, dística, llegando casi a lo largo de la hoja; sépalos verde; pétalos y labio lila.

DISTRIBUTION: Extreme western Ecuador.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the province in western Ecuador from which it is known.

TYPE: ECUADOR: MANABI: Summit of Monticristi, 8 km east of Manta, alt. 60 m, 26 Dec. 1961, Dodson & Thien 1725 (SEL).

OBSERVATIONS: This species is allied to *L. caudatisepala* C. Schweinf. but differs in the larger ciliate stem sheaths, caudate leaf apices, ciliate sepal margins and the shape of the lateral lobes of the lip.

HABITAT: Epiphytic in cloud forest.

FLOWERING SEASON: Probably throughout the year.

ILLUSTRATION VOUCHER: Dodson & Thien 1725.

