

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

Fig. 149.

Ety.: From the Latin *maxillaris*, "with jaws," referring to the pincerlike shape of the lip.

Planta mediocris, inflorescentia cum racemo congesto disticho folio ovato purpureo reticulato breviori, sepalis ovatis glabris, petalis transverse bilobis, lobis similibus triangularibus obtusis evertis, labello trilobato, lobis lateralibus glabris unciniformibus, lobo mediano pubescenti late ovato obtuso.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2.5-4.5 cm long, enclosed by 7-8 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, reticulated in purple beneath, coriaceous, ovate, acute, 18-22 mm long, 12-16 mm wide, the rounded base abruptly contracted into a petiole 2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 3-6 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long, muriculate; pedicel 1-1.25 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** translucent yellow-orange, ovate, acute, acuminate, glabrous, the dorsal sepal suffused with red medially, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 3.75 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 0.4 mm; **petals** yellow-orange, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 2.8 mm wide, the lobes about equal in size and shape, triangular, with the obtuse apices everted; **lip** 3-lobed, the lateral lobes yellow, glabrous, hook-shaped, the acute apices incurved, 1.4 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the middle lobe pink, pubescent, especially on the distal third, connate to the base of the column; **column** 0.3 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Morona-Santiago: Cordillera del Cutucú, epiphytic in forest along the new road between Mendez and Morona, alt. 750 m, 17 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup, A. Hirtz & S. Ortega 13990 (Holotype: MO).

This species from a low altitude in the Cordillera del Cutucú is identified by the congested raceme of an inflorescence shorter than the purple-reticulated leaves; ovate, acuminate, glabrous sepals; boomerang-like petals; and a three-lobed lip. The lateral lobes are hook-shaped like pincers. The large middle lobe is really a huge, ovate appendix with a densely pubescent, obtuse apical third.

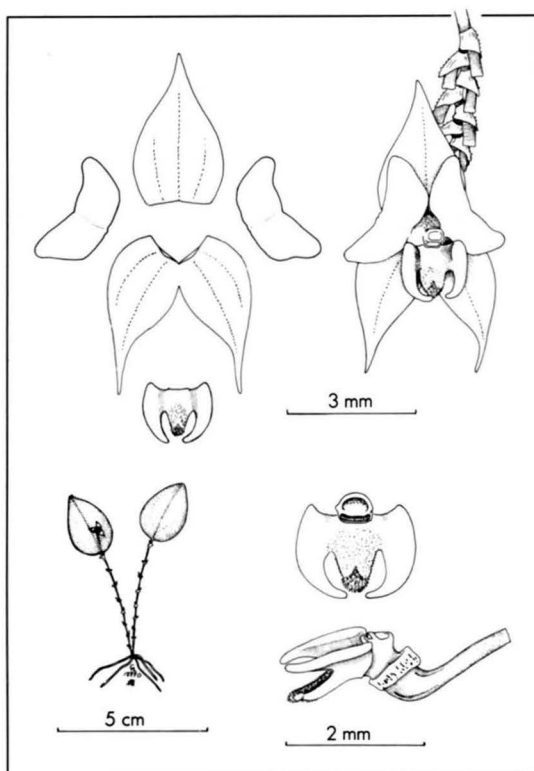


Fig. 149. *Lepanthes maxillaris*