

Lepanthes minutipetala C. Schweinfurth *sp. nov.*

Herba gracilis, muscicola. Caules caespitosi, pergraciles vel filiformes, vaginis arctis tubulatis numerosis cum ostiis ovatis hispidis patentibus omnino obtecti. Folium unicum, terminale, oblongo-ovatum, subabrupte acuminatum cum apice tridenticulato. Inflorescentiae saepissime duae vel tres, racemosae, folio multo breviores, dense bi- vel pluriflorae. Flos perparvus. Sepala late patentia, basi valde connata. Sepalum dorsale triangulari-ovatum, acutum vel breviter acuminatum. Sepala lateralia minora, oblique triangulari-ovata, acuta, per dimidium basalem connata. Petala perparva, transverse suborbiculari-ovalia. Labellum trilobatum; lobi laterales dolabriformi-peltati, parte exteriori pubescenti; lobus medius minutus, bidentatus. Columna gracilis.

Plant slender, growing in thick moss. Roots fibrous, glabrous. Stems caespitose, tall, slender to filiform, about 28 cm. or less high, entirely concealed by numerous close tubular minutely scabrous sheaths which terminate in an ovate marginate hispid mouth. Leaf solitary, terminal, erect or spreading, oblong-ovate, rather abruptly acuminate to a tridenticulate apex of which the middle tooth is longer, cuneate-narrowed to a short petiole below, up to 4.6 cm. long and 1.3 cm. wide, chartaceous when dry, many-nerved with three more conspicuous ribs. Inflorescences terminal, two to three (rarely four), racemose, densely 2- to several-flowered, equaling about half the

subtending leaf or less. Floral bracts minute, loosely infundibuliform, glabrous, apparently dark reddish brown. Flowers very small, glabrous, yellow. Sepals membranaceous, widespreading, deeply connate at the base. Dorsal sepal relatively large, triangular-ovate, acute or short-acuminate, 3-nerved, about 5 mm. long along the mid-nerve and 4.4 mm. wide at the base of the free part. Lateral sepals obliquely triangular-ovate, acute and short-apiculate, with the inner margins connate through the lower half, 1-nerved, about 4.4 mm. long along the nerve and 2.5 mm. wide near the base. Petals very small, transversely suborbicular-oval, broadly rounded or subtruncate above, about 1.2 mm. long and 2 mm. wide. Lip 3-lobed, attached to about the middle of the column by the broad base of the lateral lobes; lateral lobes dolabriform-peltate with linear-lanceolate pubescent outer surface which is about 2 mm. long and rounded at each end; mid-lobe minute, broadly rhombic-ovate, sharply bidentate, pubescent. Column slender, about 1.9 mm. long.

This species appears to have no near allies.

Cuzco: Prov. of Paucartambo, "cordilleras de 3 Cruces," in rain-forest, "ceja de la montaña," at 3600 meters altitude, October 10-14, 1943, *C. Vargas 3637* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 64904).

LEPANTHES *minutipetala*

C. Schweinf.

