

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

Fig. 157.

Ety.: Named for El Mirador where the species was collected.

Ramicales desunt, inflorescentia racemosa densa disticha folio elliptico acuto brevior, sepalis ovatis leviter acuminatis denticulatis, petalorum lobis inaequalibus, lobo superiore anguste triangulari acuto erecto quam lobo inferiore multo maiore, lobo inferiore breviter triangulari obtuso, labello bilaminato laminis oblongis, appendice biglanduliferi pubescenti.

Plant probably medium in size, ramicauls missing. **Leaf** coriaceous, elliptical, acute, lightly acuminate, the only leaf 5.7 cm long, 1.7 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a dense, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme, 12 mm or more long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 20-23 mm long; floral bracts 1.5-2 mm long; pedicels 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** yellow, denticulate, the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, subacute, shortly acuminate, 6 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, lightly acuminate, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** dark brown, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the upper lobe erect, narrowly triangular, acute, attenuate, the lower lobe much smaller, broadly triangular, obtuse; **lip** dark brown, bilaminate, the blades microscopically pubescent, oblong with the apices narrowly rounded, 2 mm long, the connectives short, broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus incised with the appendix small, oblong, pubescent with a bilobed, apical segment; **column** 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Carchi: El Mirador, alt. 3300-3600 m, August 1990, A. Hirtz, X. Hirtz, J. Del Hierro & F. Sarmiento 4940 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 15280.

Although this species is known from only a leaf with a complete inflorescence collected at a high altitude over 3000 meters above sea level in northernmost Ecuador, the combination of morphological features distinguishes it from all other species from Ecuador and Colombia. It is distinguished by a narrowly elliptical leaf; a congested raceme borne behind the leaf; acute, shortly acuminate, denticulate sepals with the laterals shortly connate; petals with a long-acuminate upper lobe and a very short, transversely obtuse lower lobe; and a lip with oblong blades and an appendix with a bilobed, apical segment.

Lepanthes tungurahuae from a high altitude in central Ecuador has the most similar flowers because of similar petals. It is distinguished from *L. mirador* by the broader, acuminate leaf, deeply connate lateral sepals, and an entire appendix.

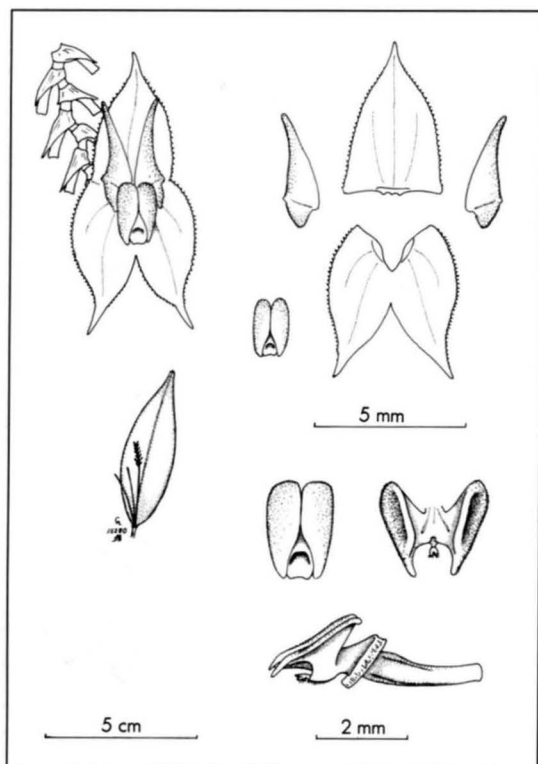


Fig. 157. *Lepanthes mirador*