

***Lepanthes morleyi* Luer & Dalström, sp. nov.**

Fig. 160.

Ety.: Named for Morley Read, co-discoverer of this species.

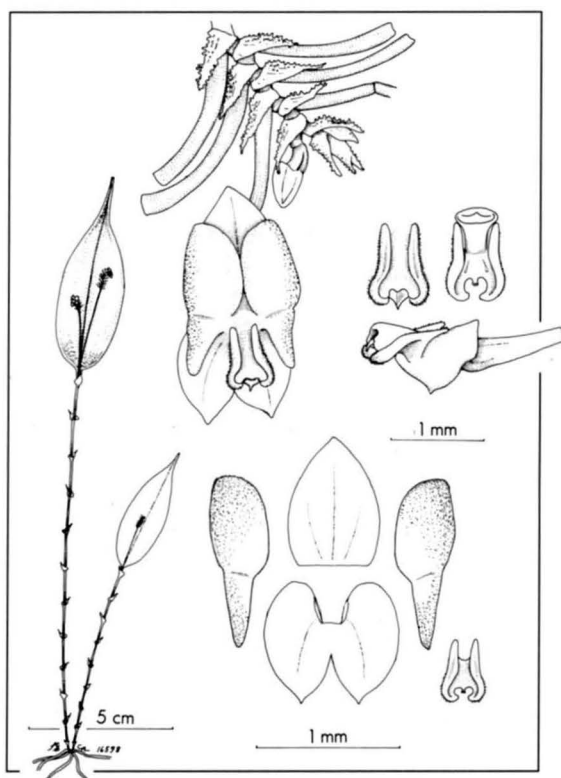
*Planta mediocris, foliis ellipticis acuminatis racemo disticho congesto longioribus, floribus perparvis, sepalis ovatis obtusis glabris, petalis transverse bilobis lobo superiore majore, labelli laminis angustissime oblongis apice incurvis, corpore crassissimo appendice parva ciliata.*

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose, roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 6-13 cm long, enclosed by 10-16 microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical, acute, acuminate, 6-8 cm long, 1.5-2.8 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate to rounded into a petiole 2-4 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 10 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 18-25 mm long; floral bracts mucicate, less than 1 mm long; pedicels 2-2.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** membranous, translucent pale orange to pale green, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, 1.8 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.25 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, obtuse, 1.6 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 0.5 mm; **petals** red-orange, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.8 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, subtruncate, much larger than the lower lobe, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, acute; **lip** red-orange, bilaminar, the blades ciliate, narrowly oblong, 0.9 mm long, the apices uncinate, incurved beneath the column, the connectives cuneate, the body very thick, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, with a small, ovoid, pubescent appendix; **column** 0.9 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma subapical.

**Carchi:** plateau above Chical, alt. 1800 m, 11 Jan. 1993, A. Hirtz 5856 (MO).

**Imbabura:** epiphytic wet forest, Los Cedros Reserve, alt. 1,850 m, 27 Jan. 1993, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & H. Wanntorp 1806 (holotype, MO); same area, alt. 1,900 m, 22 Jan. 1993, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & H. Wanntorp 1729 (MO).

Vegetatively this species is similar to many others with a congested raceme borne behind an elliptical, acuminate leaf. The flowers are very small with obtuse, glabrous sepals. The petals are proportionately large with the oblong upper lobe about as large as a lateral sepal. The blades of the lip are little more than the longitudinally thickened margins of the connectives. The body is remarkably thick with a small, ovoid, pubescent appendix.

Fig. 160. *Lepanthes morleyi*