

Lepanthes muscula Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta grandis caespitosa, caulibus secundariis folio elliptico acuminato multilongioribus, racemis paucis laxe multifloris subflexuosis folio multilongioribus, sepalis ovatis acutis, petalis transverse bilobatis, labelli laminis oblongis minute ciliatis, appendice triglandulosa.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems erect, slender to stout, 7-22 cm long, enclosed by 10-14 close, minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical, acute, acuminate, 5-7 cm long, 1.5-1.5-2 cm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence a progressively lengthening, loose, lightly flexuous raceme to 20 cm long, 2-3 flowers open simultaneously; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 0.75 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals purple-brown, glabrous, narrowly ovate, acute, acuminate, the dorsal sepal 7.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate basally 1 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals 7 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, connate 2 mm; petals dark red, microscopically cellular, transversely oblong, bilobulate, 1.25 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, the apex obliquely narrowed, obtuse, the lower lobe similar but smaller; lip dark red, the blades oblong with rounded ends, 1.75 mm long, minutely ciliate, the connectives cuneate, connate to the under surface of the column, the appendix minute, pubescent, orbicular with a pair of rounded, terminal glands; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *musculus*, "a little mouse," in reference to the appearance of the trilobed appendix.

Type: *ECUADOR*: CARCHI: epiphytic in cloud forest above San Gabriel, alt. 3400 m, 8 Nov. 1982, C. Luer & R. Escobar 8300 (Holotype: SEL).

This species may be recognized by the long stems and long, flexible, subflexuous racemes with several flowers open simultaneously. The appendix is a small, spherical, pubescent organ with a pair of rounded, terminal glands.