

Lepanthes omnifera Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 274.

Ety.: From the Latin *omnifer*, "bearing all kinds," referring to the various trichomes found on the floral and vegetative parts.

Planta perparva, inflorescentia cum racemo laxo folio rotundato ciliato multilongiore, sepalis acutis longiciliatis, petalis transverse oblongis ciliatis, labelli laminis ellipticis ciliatis, connectivis late cuneatis, corpore crasso ad basim columnae connato, appendice obtusa concava.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 5-15 mm long, enclosed by 3-4 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with oblique apices. **Leaf** ciliate, erect, coriaceous, broadly ovate to round, obtuse, 6-8.5 mm long, 5-8 mm wide, the base rounded, contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a distantly, successively 3- to 4-flowered raceme up to 25 mm long including the slender, sparsely pubescent peduncle 10-15 mm long; floral bracts long-ciliate, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1.25 mm long, ciliate-crested; **sepals** red-brown, long-ciliate, the dorsal sepal concave above the base, ovate, acute, 4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.8 mm, the lateral sepals ovate-triangular, oblique, acute, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 0.5 mm; **petals** ciliate, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.8 mm long, 4 mm wide, the lobes opposite, oblong, obtuse, the upper lobe dull brown, slightly larger than the yellow lower lobe; **lip** yellow-brown, bilaminate, the blades elliptical with the ends rounded, 1 mm long, ciliate, microscopically pubescent, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, thick, connate to the base of the column, the appendix obtuse, concave, microscopically ciliate; **column** 1 mm long, the anther apical and the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: **Carchi**: Bolívar, above La Paz, north road, alt. 3100 m, collected by A. Hirtz & J. del Hierro, 18 Feb. 1998, *C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & J. del Hierro 18723* (Holotype: MO; Isotype: QCNE).

This species, apparently endemic in northern Ecuador, is distinguished by the very small habit with round, ciliated leaves. The distantly few-flowered raceme borne by a sparsely pubescent peduncle surpasses the tiny leaves two- or three-fold. The sepals are ovate, acute and long-ciliate. The petals are ciliate and transversely oblong, the upper lobe slightly larger than the lower lobe. The blades of the lip are elliptical, ciliate-pubescent and flank the column. The connectives are broad with a thick body attached to the base of the column. The appendix is thick and concave. The above characters place this species in subsection *Lepanthes* series *Elongatae*.

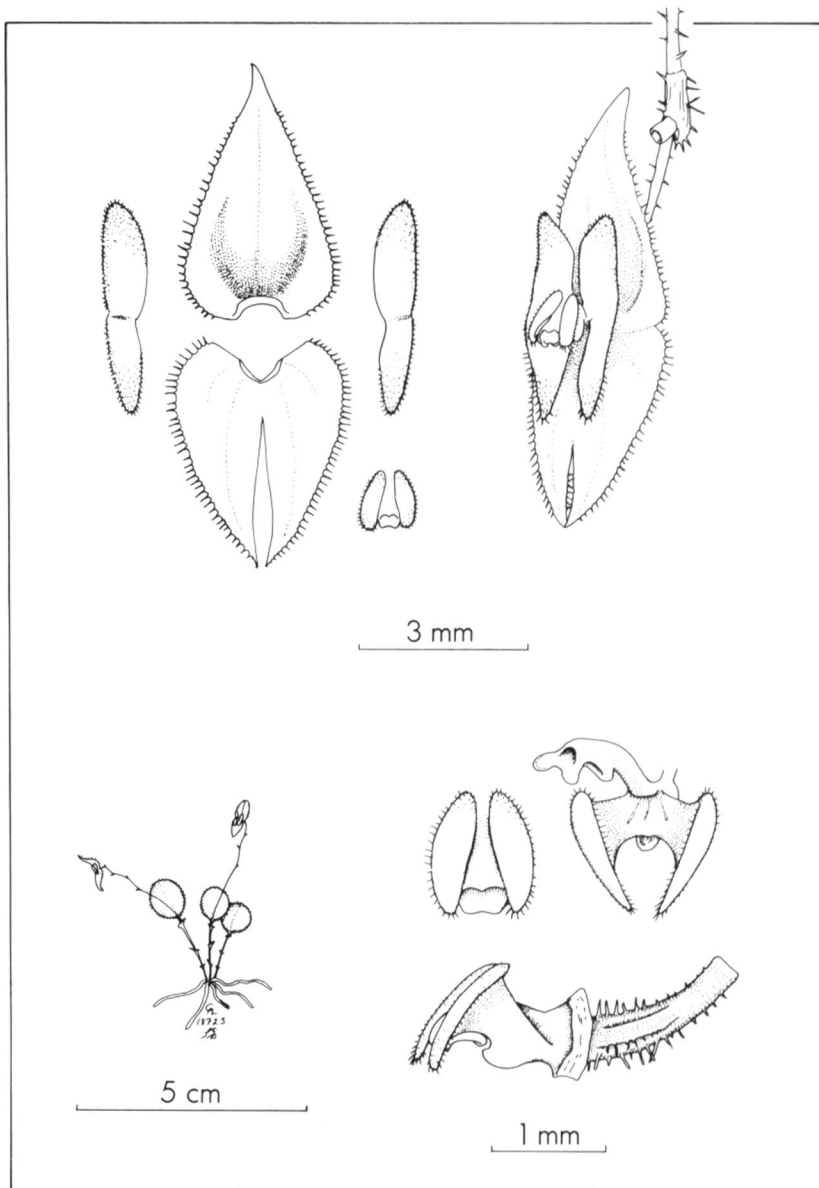


Fig. 274. *Lepanthes omnifera*