

**Lepanthes otara** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, folio elliptico racemo laxe paucifloro longiore, sepalis brevicaudatis lateralibus serrulatis, petalis transverse bilobatis, labelli laminis late ellipticis columnam amplectentibus, appendice pubescenti conica.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems erect, slender, 15-35 mm long, enclosed by 4-5 close, minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, oblong-elliptical, subacute, 17-34 mm long, 6-8 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence a loose, successively few-flowered, flexuous raceme up to 2 cm long including the filiform peduncle; floral bract 2 mm long, pubescent; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long, irregularly carinate; sepals dull red-brown, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, 7 mm long, 4.25 mm wide unexpanded, the acute apex attenuated into a 1.5 mm long tail, connate basally, the lateral sepals ovate, connate 4 mm into a bifid lamina 8 mm long, 5 mm wide, the margins serrulate, the apices attenuated into 1.5 mm long tails; petals bright rose, cellular pubescent, transversely oblong, 1.66 mm long, 2.33 mm wide, with a short, acute angle on the outer margin below the middle, the upper lobe slightly larger than the lower lobe, the ends rounded; lip bright rose, the blades broadly elliptical, rounded at the apex and base, 1.3 mm long, 1 mm broad, clasping the column, cellular pubescent, the connectives very short, connate to the under surface of the middle of the column, the appendix short, conical, pubescent; column 1.5 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

**Etymology:** From the Greek *otaros*, "with large ears," in reference to the appearance of the lobes of the lip.

**Type:** *ECUADOR*: LOJA: epiphytic in cloud forest east of Yangana, alt. 2850 m, 4 Mar. 1982, C. Luer, D. D'Alessandro & S. Dalström 7163 (Holotype: SEL).

This little species is notable for the short setaceous tails of the sepals, the serrulate lateral sepals, and the broadly elliptical lobes of the lip that resemble a pair of large ears as they embrace the column.