

Lepanthes paradoxa Luer, sp. nov.

Planta perpusilla caespitosa, caulibus secundariis abbreviatis, racemo laxe plurifloro folio elliptico triplolongiore, floribus pro planta grandissimis, sepalis ovatis setaceis, petalis nanis, labelli laminis antice elongatis, appendice anguste lineari.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 3-4 mm long, enclosed by 2 close, microscopically scabrous sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 6-11 mm long, 4-6 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a loose, flexuous raceme up to 35 mm long with up to 10 flowers, several (3-4) open simultaneously; floral bract 1.5 mm long, pubescent; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary winged, 1 mm long; sepals light red-brown, ovate, carinate, the acute apices setaceous, the dorsal sepal 7 mm long including the 2 mm long tail, 3.5 mm wide, connate basally to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate 2.5 mm, 7.75 mm long including the 2.5 mm long tails, 5 mm wide together; petals red-brown, transversely oblong with rounded ends, 0.6 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the lobes about equal; lip red-brown, the blades narrowly oblong, 2 mm long, the medial margins obtusely angled near the middle, prolonged beyond the column to rounded, ciliate apices, the connectives posterior, narrowly cuneate, connate to the column below the middle, the appendix small, narrowly linear; column 1 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *paradoxus*, "contrary to expectation," referring to the inflorescence, huge for the size of the plant.

Type: *ECUADOR*: NAPO: epiphytic in cloud forest, Cosanga, alt. 1850 m, 17 June 1983, C. H. Dodson, P. Dodson, D. Benzing & A. Hirtz 14033A (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9088.

This minute species produces a loose, flexuous raceme of seemingly over-sized flowers, often three simultaneously, each about as large as the leaf. The sepals are with short, slender tails; the petals are minute. The blades of the lip are prolonged beyond the column about an additional length. The appendix is a very slender organ beneath the stigma.