

Lepanthes peniculus Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris vel grandis caespitosa, racemo laxo flexuoso folio elliptico breviter acuminato duplolongiore, sepalis glabris breviter acuminatis, petalis transverse cuneatis, labelli laminis ellipticis oblongis convexis minute pubescentibus, appendice parva cum glande terminali.

Plant medium to large in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 3-17 cm long, enclosed by 5-10 ciliated lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, 3-6 cm long, 1-2 cm wide, the acute to obtuse apex shortly acuminate, the cuneate base contracted into a petiole 3-5 mm long. Inflorescence racemose, 2-5 loose, flexuous, flexible successively flowered racemes up to 15 cm long including the short, filiform peduncle; floral bract 1.5-2 mm long; pedicel 1-2 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals yellow-green, obtuse, abruptly short-acuminate, glabrous, the dorsal sepal 5-5.5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate 2-3 mm into a broadly ovate, bifid lamina 4.5-5 mm long, 4.25 mm wide; petals bright purple, minutely pubescent, transversely cuneate-oblong, 1 mm long, 2.2 mm wide, the lobes triangular with rounded apices, the lower lobe smaller; lip bright purple, the blades elliptical convex with rounded ends, minutely pubescent, 1.5 mm long, the connectives broad, oblong, short, connate to the column above the base, the appendix short, oblong, pubescent, with a small, rounded, apical gland; column 1.5 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *peniculus*, "a small organ," in reference to the appearance of the appendix.

Type: *ECUADOR*: NAPO; epiphytic in cloud forest above El Playon, alt. 3200 m, 5 Nov. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4672 (Holotype: SEL); *CARCHI*: above San Gabriel, alt. 3340 m, 16 May 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz *et al.* 6249 (SEL); same area, 8 Nov. 1982, C. Luer & R. Escobar 8299 (SEL).

This species may be identified by the loose, flexuous racemes about twice longer than the shortly acuminate leaves; the transversely cuneate petals; the elliptical, convex blades of the lip; and the small appendix with a terminal gland.