

Lepanthes privigna Luer & Jost, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *privigna*, "a stepdaughter," alluding to the close similarity to *L. wagneri*.

Species haec *L. wagneri* Rchb.f. affinis, sed foliis ovatis acutis et sepalis anguste ovatis acutis acuminatis differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-4 cm long, enclosed by 5-6 glabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, ovate, acute, 2.5-3 cm long, 1.3-1.5 cm wide, the base rounded, abruptly contracted into a petiole 3 mm long. Inflorescence a distichous, congested, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 10 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 6-7 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.25 mm long; sepals translucent pale green, suffused with light purple, entire, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, 4.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, slightly acuminate, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 0.5 mm; petals yellowish, heavily suffused with red-purple, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, 1-veined, the lobes about equal, obliquely triangular, narrowly obtuse; lip yellow centrally, heavily suffused with red, bilaminate, the blades suboblong, microscopically pubescent, more or less longitudinally concave, with the apices obliquely truncate with acuminate corners, the bases obtuse, 1.8 mm long, clasping the column, the connectives short, broadly cuneate, forming a narrow body, connate to the base of the column, the appendix external, scaphoid, acute, protruding beyond the sinus; column 1.25 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Tungurahua: Río Verde, alt. 1450 m, 5 May 1999, *L. Jost 1532* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19170.

This small species is similar to the frequent and widely distributed *L. wagneri*, but differs with ovate, acute leaves, and ovate, acute, slightly acuminate sepals with the laterals somewhat spreading. The leaves of *L. wagneri* are obtuse and the sepals are subacute with the laterals nearly approximate.

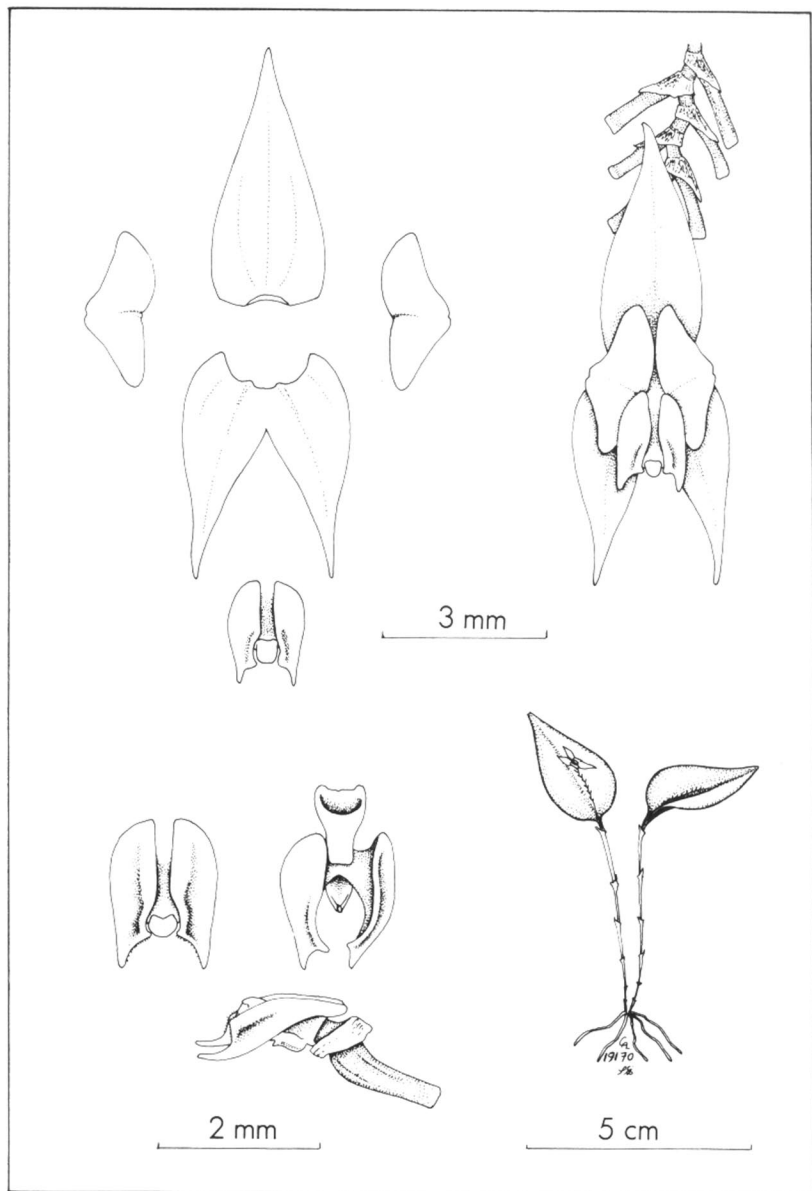


Fig. 302. *Lepanthes privigna*