

Lepanthes surrogata Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta disticha folio anguste ovato brevior, sepalis denticulatis ovatis subacutis, petalis transverse oblongis, lobis subaequalibus, labello bilaminato, laminis lunatis glabris, connectivis late cuneatis, appendice triangulari ciliata, rostello oblongo truncato ciliato, stigmatibus transverse bilobato.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform. Ramicauls slender, suberect to erect, 4-9 cm long, enclosed by 10-13 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, 2.5-6 cm long, 0.8-1.3 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1-1.5 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 20 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 10-20 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long, spiculate; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals red with orange border, ovate, subacute, denticulate, carinate-spiculate, the dorsal sepal 3.5 mm long, 2.4 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.6 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, shortly acuminate, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 1 mm; petals red on the outer half, orange on the inner half, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3 mm wide, microscopically pubescent, the upper lobe oblong with the apex broadly rounded, the lower lobe similar but shorter; lip bilaminated, the laminae glabrous, shiny red, lunate,

concave, lightly adherent, 1.25 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body connate to the base of the column, the sinus transverse with a triangular, ciliate appendix; column stout, 0.75 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma apical, transversely bilobed, the overlying rostellar flap oblong, truncate, ciliate.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *surrogatus*, "chosen in place of another," referring to the rostellar flap.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of Morona-Santiago: epiphytic in cloud forest, Cordillera del Condor east of Guisame, alt. 1500 m, 18 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Embree, A. Hirtz & W. Flores 11910 (Holotype: MO).

Although not very different vegetatively or florally from many other species, this species is most remarkable in the morphology of the lip and column. The smooth, semicircular blades of the lip are lightly adherent over the column. The column is short, the anther and stigma located near the center of the lip over the sinus of the body. The appendix on the margin of the sinus is triangular and ciliate. Located immediately above it, and resembling it, is the protruding rostellar flap from the floor of the anther cavity. This flap overlies the narrow central portion of the transversely bilobed stigma between the lateral lobes, very much as it does in many species of *Pleurothallis* and *Stelis*. The rostellar flap appears very much like a second appendix. A bilobed stigma is known in a few species of *Lepanthes*, and the rostellum is commonly lobed, forked, apiculate, or pubescent, but in only two other species is the rostellum thought to be modified to take part in luring a pollinator. These other two species are the Central American *L. mystax* Luer & Escobar and the newly described *L. necopina* Luer & Hirtz.