

Lepanthopsis acetabulum Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, inflorescentia folio crasso angustissime elliptico subaequilonga vel paulo longiore, racemo disticho densifloro, floribus parvis simultaneis, sepalis ovatis acuminatis, petalis obtusis, labello cordato cum cavitate rotundata basali.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 4-10 cm long, enclosed by 6-8 blackish, ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly linear-elliptical, acute, 2.5-6 cm long, 0.3-0.7 cm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole 2-5 mm long. Inflorescence a suberect, dense, distichous, simultaneously flowered raceme up to 18 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 20-40 mm long; floral bract 0.5-1 mm long; pedicel 0.25 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; sepals dark purple, cellular ciliate, ovate, acute, acuminate, the dorsal sepal 3-4 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, the lateral sepals oblique, 3-4 mm long, 1 mm wide, connate 0.75 mm, the apices near and parallel; petals dark purple, cellular ciliate, elliptical, obtuse, 1 mm long, 0.75 mm wide; lip lighter purple, cellular pubescent, ovate-cordate, 2 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the apex obtuse, the basal angles obtuse, flanking the column, the base of the disc with a circular cavity, probably a modified glenion; column hooded, 0.5 mm long and wide.

Etymology: From the Latin acetabulum, "a vinegar cup," hence the pelvic socket, referring to the resemblance of the cavity of the lip to the acetabulum of the pelvis.

Type: Ecuador: Prov. of Zamora-Chinipe: Valladilid, alt. 1800 m, 3 Jan. 1983, S. Dalström 417 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9166; Retorno, between Loja and Zamora, alt. ca. 2000 m, 15 Apr. 1980, D. D'Alessandro 94 (SEL). Peru: Dept. of Huanuco: between Tingo Maria and Pucallpa, March 1975, collected by Janet Kuhn, flowered in cultivation at J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, 12 Nov. 1977, C. Luer 2175 (SEL).

This species is similar to L. acuminata Ames, but the leaves of L. acetabulum are long and narrow, and the lip has a circular cavity at the base.