

## **Lepanthes cardiochila** Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *cardiocheilos*, "a heart-shaped lip," in reference to the labellum.

Species haec *L. pilosellae* Rchb.f. affinis, sed sepalo postico erecto plano late obovato, petalis obscure trilobatis, et labello cordato cum lobis basalibus columnam amplectentibus differt.

**Plant** average in size for the subgenus, epiphytic, pendent, with branches up to 20 cm long or longer, the rhizomes slender, 4-5 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2 long-spiculate, imbricating, lepanthiform sheaths; roots slender, from nodes near the base of the branches. Ramicauls 0.5 mm long, concealed by 1 long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheath. **Leaf** pendent in the natural position, coriaceous, lightly concave, sparsely short-ciliate, broadly ovate-subcordate, obtuse, 7-9 mm long, 6-8 mm wide, 5-veined, the base contracted into a petiole less than 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively few-flowered raceme, 3-4 mm long, borne by an ascending peduncle ca. 1 mm long from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bract long-spiculate, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1.5-2 mm long; ovary minutely verrucose, 1.5 mm long; **sepals** color unknown, membranous, the dorsal sepal erect, broadly obovate, obtuse, 4.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 5-(7-)veined, connate to the lateral sepals for less than 1 mm, the lateral sepals cellular glandular, connate 3 mm into an ovate, acute, shortly bifid synsepal, 5 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** obscurely triangularly trilobed, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the lobes triangular, obtuse; **lip** glabrous, deeply cordate, acute, 1.75 mm long, 2.5 mm wide expanded, with the basal lobes rounded, surrounding the column, the base connate to the base of the column; column 2 mm long, with the anther and the stigma apical.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Risaralda: epiphytic in forest remnant above Pereira, alt. ca. 2000 m, collected by A. DeWilde, flowered in cultivation by A. DeWilde, 10 May 1993, *C. Luer 16773* (Holotype: MO).

Superficially, this species is similar to *L. pilosella* and its relatives, but the leaves are more or less cordate in outline, slightly concave, and only slightly ciliate on the margins. The sheaths are long-spiculate. The inflorescence is a short, ascending, successively-flowered raceme. The flat dorsal sepal stands erect, the synsepal is ovate and shortly bifid, and the petals are sagittate, lobed at the base. The lip is deeply cordate with the basal lobes enveloping the column and with the acute apex enveloping the column.

