

Lepanthes chilopsis Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *cheilopsis*, "like a lip," in reference to the labellum.

Planta mediocris pendens foliis longipubescentibus, sepalo dorsali concavo, synsepalo plano ovato acuto, petalis ad basim lobulatis, labello glabro ovato-cordato protuberanti lobis basalibus columnam amplectentibus distinguitur.

Plant average in size for the subgenus, epiphytic, pendent, up to 30 cm long or longer, the rhizomes slender, 2.5-3 mm long between ramicauls, with 1 intervening, long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheath, roots slender, from nodes near the base. Ramicauls 0.5 mm long, concealed by a long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheath. **Leaf** pendent in the natural position, thickly coriaceous, long-ciliate, elliptical, subacute, 9-10 mm long, 3.5-5 mm wide, 2 mm thick, the base contracted into a petiole ca. 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a single flower, borne by a peduncle ca. 1.5 mm long from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bract long-spiculate, 1-1.5 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary minutely spiculate, 0.5 mm long; **sepals** membranous, glabrous, the dorsal sepal translucent with purple, center stripe, suborbicular, obtuse, concave, 5 mm long, 4 mm wide, 5-veined with faint accessories, barely connate to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals translucent yellow, faintly suffused with purple laterally, connate 1.5 mm into an ovate, acute, shortly bifid synsepal, 4.5 mm long, 3.8 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** yellow, diverging, minutely pubescent, oblong, obtuse, 1.5 mm long, 0.25 mm wide, with the margins involute, the base with a lobule at both angles; **lip** yellow-orange, glabrous, ovate, obtuse, protuberant, with the base cordate, clasping the column, 2.25 mm long, 1.75 mm wide expanded, the base connate to a minute protrusion from the base of the column; column 1.5 mm long, with the anther dorsal and the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: new road from Macas to Guamote, at the junction between Río Colimbo and Río Upano, alt. 1600 m, 1 Mar. 2001, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 19588* (Holotype: MO).

This species is similar to *L. pilosella* and its relatives, but the leaves are thick and elliptical, and covered by a fine, long pubescence. The sheaths are also finely long-pubescent. The inflorescence is a single, erect flower produced successively. The dorsal sepal is concave and, the synsepal is ovate and acute. The petals are small, oblong and bilobed at the base. The lip is ovate and protrudes forward beneath the column.