

Lepanthes ciliaris Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *ciliaris*, "with cilia," referring to the long-ciliate floral parts.

Species haec *L. moniliae* Luer & Escobar affinis, sed foliis glabris, floribus parvis albis, sepalis obtusis ciliatis pubescentibusque et petalis minoribus lunatisque differt.

Plant small for the subgenus *Brachycladium*, epiphytic, pendent, up to 20 cm long or longer, the rhizome slender, 3 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2-3 loose, infundibular, long-ciliate sheaths, roots slender at the base. Ramicauls slender, 1-3 mm long, enclosed by 2 infundibular, ciliate, sheaths. Leaves pendent, distichous, thickly coriaceous, glabrous, elliptical, subacute, the blade 5-6 mm long, 4 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a raceme of 2 to 4 white flowers, up to 8 mm long, including the peduncle ca. 3 mm long, borne on top of the leaf; floral bracts 0.75 mm long; pedicels 1.75 mm long; ovary 1 mm long, cellular-pubescent; **sepals** long-ciliate, pubescent, the dorsal transversely ovate, obtuse, 1.8 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals diverging, elliptical, obtuse, apiculate, 1.8 mm long, 1.4 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 0.5 mm; **petals** transversely bilobed or lunate, long-ciliate, pubescent, 0.2 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the lobes equal, triangular, incurved with the apices narrowly rounded; **lip** white, long-ciliate, pubescent, cordate, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide expanded, the apex broadly rounded, the basal angles rounded, embracing the column, the body connate to the base of the column by a slender claw; **column** terete, 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Napo: epiphytic forest on the western flank of Volcán Reventador, alt. 1550 m, Apr. 1986, A. Hirtz 2887 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 14699. Prov. of Sucumbios: between El Carmelo and La Bonita, alt. 2000 m, Aug. 1990, A. Hirtz, X. Hirtz, J. Del Hierro & F. Sarmiento 4967 (MO).

This species is apparently endemic on the eastern slopes of the Andes of north-eastern Ecuador. *Lepanthes ciliaris* is distinguished by the small habit with glabrous leaves; short, ascending, successively-flowered racemes of small, white flowers with long-ciliate and pubescent floral parts; broadly ovate sepals; very small, lunate petals; and a cordate lip with the sides embracing the column.

