

Lepanthes cordilabia Luer, sp. nov.

Etymology: From the Latin *cordilabius*, "heart-shaped lip," referring to the cordate labellum.

Species haec *L. ciliaris* Luer & Hirtz affinis, sed floribus majoribus, sepalo dorsali ovato longipubescentibus, sepalis lateralibus microscopicis pubescentibus, petalis breviter pubescentibus et labello glabro cordato columnam amplectenti differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, pendent, up to 10 cm long or longer, the rhizome slender, 2-4 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2 infundibular, long-ciliate sheaths; roots slender at the base. Ramicauls 0.5 mm long, enclosed by 1 ciliate sheath. Leaves pendent, distichous, thickly coriaceous, glabrous, broadly ovate, obtuse, the blade 3-5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the base abruptly contracted into a petiole less than 0.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a successively 2- to 3-flowered raceme, up to 3 mm long, borne by a peduncle 3 mm long; floral bracts long-ciliate, 1 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary long-ciliate-spiculate, 1.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow with wine red stripes and markings, widely spread and recurving, the dorsal long-ciliate within, ovate, obtuse, 3.2 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals diverging, elliptical-oblong, subacute, apiculate, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 0.5 mm; **petals** transversely bilobed or lunate, shortly pubescent, 0.4 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the lobes equal, triangular with the tips rounded; **lip** wine red, glabrous, cordate with the sides embracing the column, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide expanded, the apex broadly rounded, the basal angles rounded, the body connate to the column above the base by a slender claw; **column** terete, 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: **Zamora-Chinchipec**: San Francisco station between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2200 m, 9 June 2000, *F. Werner 334* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19428.

This species, known only from this original collection, is closely allied to *L. ciliaris*. It is distinguished from the latter by twice larger flowers with spreading, recurved, purple-striped sepals, instead of white. The dorsal sepal is long-pubescent, ovate, and narrowed toward the base. The lateral sepals are only microscopically pubescent, and the transverse petals are shortly pubescent. The lip is glabrous and cordate with the sides embracing the column.