

Lepanthes geminipetala Luer & Portilla, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *geminipetalus*, “with twinned petals,” in reference to the petals.

Planta mediocris pendens foliis longipubescentibus, sepalo dorsali concavo, synsepalo plano subquadrato apicibus obtusis breviter acuminatis, petalis geminatis pubescentibus, labello glabro bilobo, lobis columnam amplectentibus distinguitur.

Plant average in size for the subgenus, epiphytic, pendent, with branches up to 10 cm long or longer, the rhizomes slender, 5-7 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2 long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths; roots slender, from nodes near the base of the branches. Ramicauls 1.5 mm long, concealed by a long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheath. **Leaf** pendent in the natural position, thickly coriaceous, long-ciliate, elliptical, obtuse, 9-11 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, 2 mm thick, the base contracted into a petiole ca. 2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a single flower, borne by an ascending peduncle ca. 2 mm long from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bract long-spiculate, 2-3 mm long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary minutely cellular-glandular, 1 mm long; **sepals** light rosy brown, membranous, the dorsal sepal suborbicular, obtuse, slightly acuminate at the tip, concave, 4 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 5-veined, barely connate to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals connate 2 mm into a subquadrate, broadly bifid synsepal, 3.5 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, 4-(6-)veined; **petals** erect, light brown, pubescent, deeply cleft into two oblong, obtuse lobes, the outer lobes 2 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the inner lobes 1.5 mm long, 0.3 mm wide; **lip** glabrous, shiny dark purple-brown, bilobed, “U-shaped,” with the lobes obtuse, erect, subfalcate, clasping the column, with an oblique, linear callus on the outer surface, the apex obtuse, ca. 1.5 mm long, 3 mm wide expanded, the base connate to the base of the column; column 1.75 mm long, with the anther and the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: **Azuay**: Soldado, Molleturo, southwest of Cuenca, cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, 4 Mar. 2001, *C. Luer 19656* (Holotype: MO).

Superficially, 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 subquadrate and widely bifid. Each petal, divided into two parts, stands erect behind the lip and column. The lip is broadly bilobed with the lobes surrounding the column.