

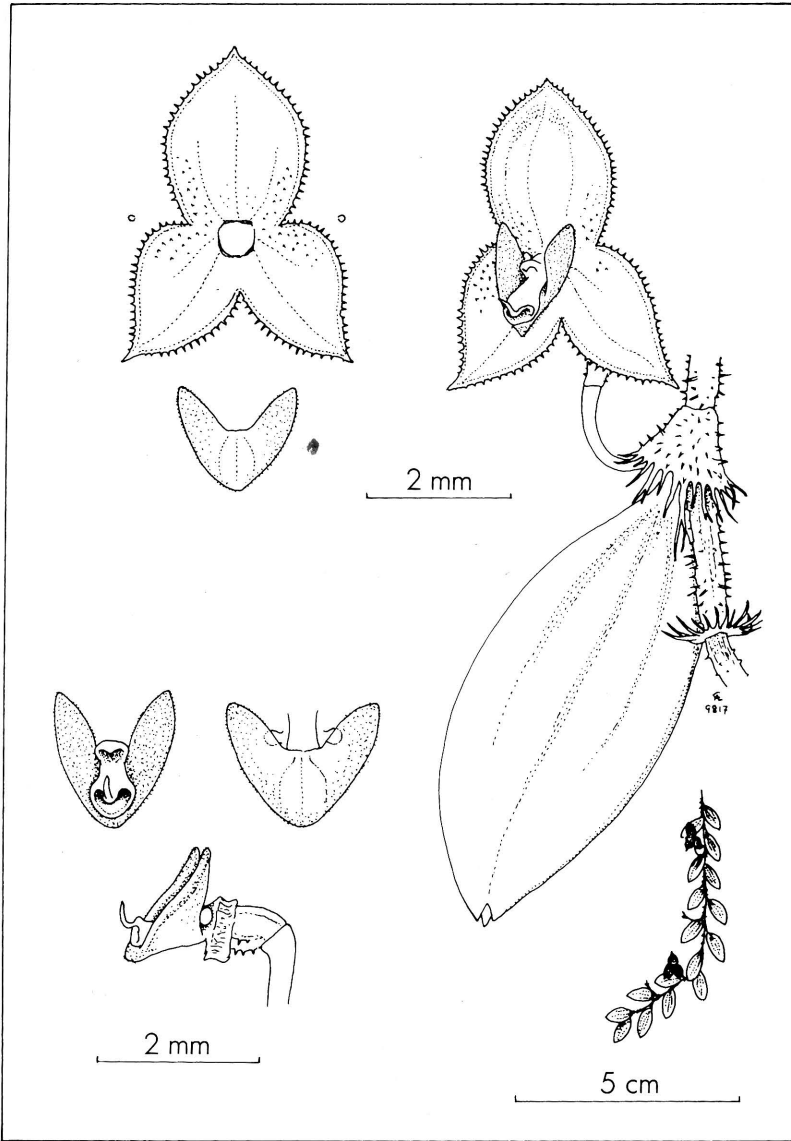
Lepanthes lupula, Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Species haec *L. micropetalae* L. O. Williams similis, sed foliis integris, sepalis valde denticulatis, minute echinatis, et lobis labelli acutis pubescentibus differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, repent-pendent, up to 50 cm long. Ramicaul slender, ca. 4 mm long, proliferating, branching, enclosed by 2 pilose, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 5-8 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, 3-veined, cuncate below into the 0.5 mm long petiole. Inflorescence a solitary flower, sometimes followed by a second, borne by an erect, filiform peduncle 2 mm long; floral bract 1.2 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long, sparsely echinate; sepals red-brown or red-purple, ovate, subacute, denticulate, shortly echinate within, the dorsal sepal 2.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.4 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 2 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm; petals minute, orbicular, 0.2 mm long, 0.2 mm wide; lip red-brown or red-purple, shortly pubescent, V-shaped-subcordate, 1.6 mm long, the apex obtuse, the basal angles subacute, erect to either side of the column, connate to the base of the column; column 1 mm long, stout, the anther and stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *lupulus*, "a little wolf," referring to the appearance of the column and lip.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of Pichincha: epiphytic in cloud forest along the new road between Quito and Tandapi, alt. 2100 m, 31 March 1984, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, S. Dalström, T. Höjjer & J. Kuijt 9817 (Holotype: MO; Isotype: SEL) and alt. 1950 m, 9828 (MO, SEL).



Lepanthes lupula

Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

This species is similar to *L. micropetala* from Colombia and northern Ecuador but *L. lupula* may be distinguished by the leaves with smooth margins, sepals markedly denticulate and minutely echinate, and the pubescent, V-shaped lip. The petals of both species are extremely minute, hidden behind the lobes of the lip.