

**Lepanthes macrotica** Luer & Dalström, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *makrotikos*, "with big ears," referring to the lobes of the lip.

Species haec *L. micropetalae* L.O.Williams affinis, sed foliis glabris integris, flore majore, petalis oblongis majoribus et labello basi magnilobato, lobis suborbicularibus distinguitur.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, pendent, long-repent, the rhizome 4-5 mm long between ramicauls, occasionally branching, each segment enclosed by 2 sparsely long-pubescent sheaths with long-spiculate, dilated ostia; roots slender, along the rhizome. Ramicauls abbreviated, up to 1 mm long, enclosed by a long-spiculate, infundibuliform sheath. **Leaf** descending, coriaceous, glabrous, entire, elliptical-ovate, obtuse, 5-6 mm long, 4-4.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the base contracted into a petiole less than 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a single flower, borne by an ascending peduncle 1 mm long; floral bract 2.5 mm long, spiculate; pedicel 4 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long, echinate; **sepals** light brown, with purple along the veins, glabrous, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate to suborbicular, obtuse, 4 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.75 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, obtuse, 4 mm long, 4 mm wide, connate 2 mm, 3-veined; **petals** oblong, pubescent, 0.8 mm long, 0.3 mm wide; **lip** purple-brown, minutely ciliate below the middle, prominently 3-lobed, with the basal lobes suborbicular, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apical lobe ovate, obtuse, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, with the basal lobes flanking the column, the base connate to the base of the column; **column** 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Sucumbíos: forest between La Bonita and Rosa Florida, alt. 1600-2000 m, 14 Mar. 1996, *S. Dalström, S. Ingram & K. Ferrell-Ingram 2132* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17918.

Similar vegetatively to other members of the subgenus *Brachycladium*, *L. macrotica* is distinguished by small, smooth, ovate leaves with the rhizome and ramicauls clothed in spiculate sheaths. The flower is larger than the leaf beside which it is borne by a very short peduncle. The sepals are ovate, obtuse and glabrous; the minute, oblong petals are four times larger than the microscopic petals of *L. micropetala*; and the lip is prominently three-lobed with the basal lobes large, rounded and erect behind the column.

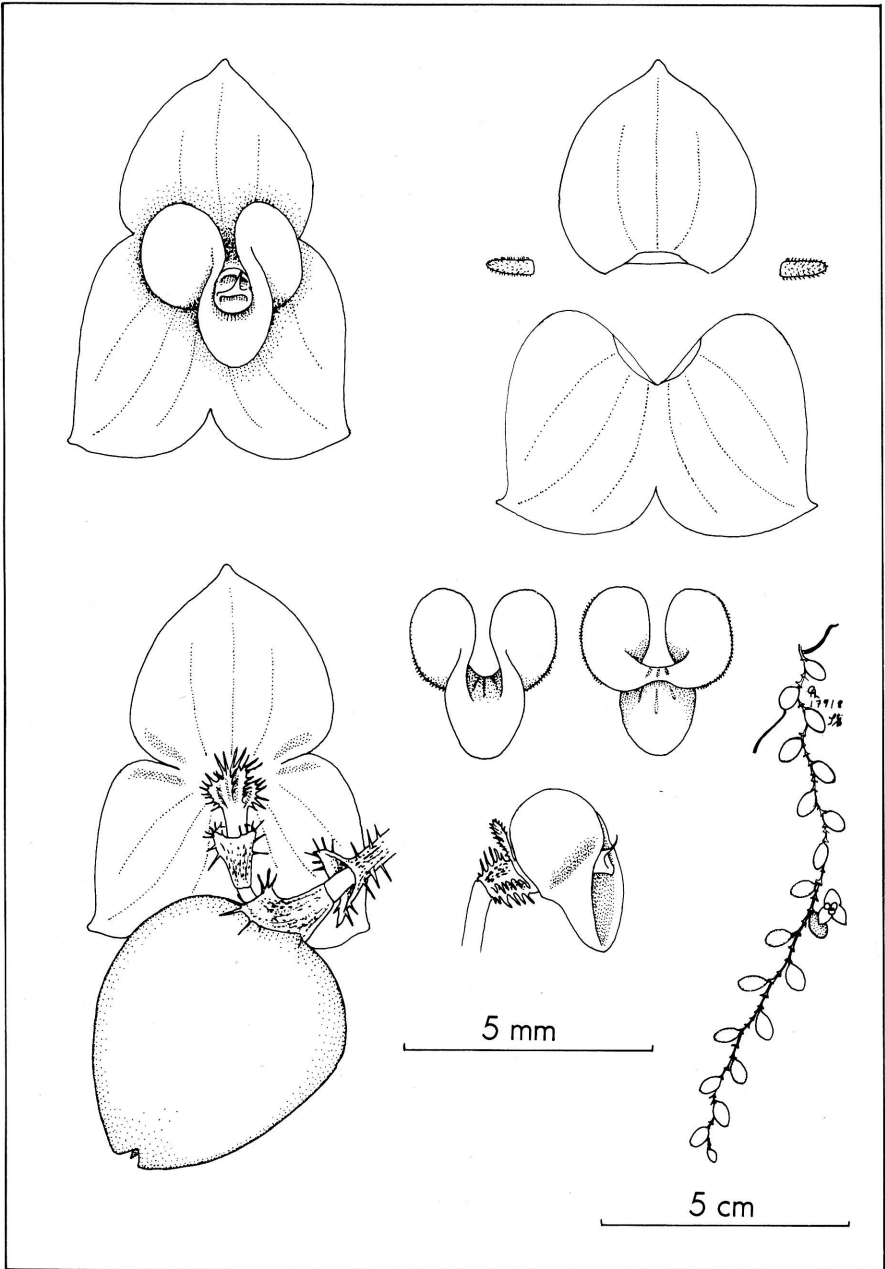


Plate 26. *Lepanthes macrotica* Luer & Dalström