

Lepanthes octocornuta Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 318.

Ety.: From the Latin *octocornutus*, "eight-horned," referring to the projections of the petals and lip.

Species haec *L. pilosellae* Rchb.f. similis, sed petalis trifurcatis et lamello bicornuto differt.

Plant medium in size for the subgenus *Brachycladium*, epiphytic, pendent, long-repent, up to 10 cm long or longer, the rhizome 3-4 mm long between ramicauls, each segment enclosed by 2 long-spiculate sheaths with dilated, long-ciliate ostia; roots slender, along the rhizome. Ramicauls abbreviated, 0.5 mm long, enclosed by a long-pubescent sheath. **Leaf** descending, coriaceous, long-pubescent, elliptical, subacute, 7-11 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, 3- to 5-veined, the base cuneate into a petiole ca. 0.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a single flower, borne by a slender, upcurved peduncle 0.5-0.6 mm long; floral bract long-pubescent, 1 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 0.6 mm long; **sepals** yellowish with purple-brown stripes, glabrous, the dorsal sepal deeply concave, suborbicular, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 8 mm long, 7 mm wide unexpanded, 7-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate 3 mm into a narrowly ovate, bifid synsepal with acute apices, 8.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** glabrous, narrowly trifurcate, 2.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the lobes slender, the middle lobe longest, with basal lobes ca. 0.5 mm long; **lip** glabrous, subquadrate-trilobed, broadly truncate-retuse, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide expanded, 3 mm across lateral lobes expanded, with the sides clasping the column, the lobes expanded, slender, 1 mm long, from the base of the blade, the base connate to the base of the column; **column** terete, 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: **Zamora-Chinchipe**: San Francisco station between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2200 m, 9 June 2000, *F. Werner 329A* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19426.

This species, known only from this original collection, is superficially similar to *L. pilosella* because of the large, orbicular, deeply concave, striped dorsal sepal. The lateral sepals form a narrowly ovate, bifid synsepal. The petals are trifid, with a long, middle segment and a short segment at either side of the base. The lip is subquadrate with sides clasping the column, and with narrow, erect, basal lobes.