

Lepanthes aries Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia folio oblongo acuminato subaequilonga, racemo congesto disticho, sepalis ovatis acuminatis serrulatis pubescentibus, petalis transverse oblongis acuminatis ciliatis, labelli laminis oblongis basibus elongatis obtusis recurvatis, appendice minuta trilobata pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems slender, erect, 8-15 cm tall, enclosed by 8-11 minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, oblong, acute, acuminate, 5-6.5 cm long, 1.5-1.8 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 5 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous raceme up to 23 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 45 mm long along the back of the leaf; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2.5-3.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals orange-brown with thin yellow margins, serrulate, shortly pubescent, ovate, acute, acuminate, the dorsal sepal 7.5 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, connate basally to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate 4 mm, 7.25 mm long, 4.5 mm wide together; petals red-brown, ciliate, transversely oblong, bilobed, 1.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, the lobes elliptical, acuminate, acute, the lower lobe smaller; lip rosy brown, the blades oblong, 3 mm long, the apices short, obtuse, ciliate, the bases long, obtuse, recurved, the connectives broadly cuneate, connate to the column above the middle, the appendix minutely pubescent, 3-lobed, one lobe beneath 2 lobes above at the sinus; column 2.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *aries*, "a ram," referring to the recurved bases of the blades of the lip.

Type: *ECUADOR*: IMBABURA: epiphytic in cloud forest, Selva Alegre west of Otavalo, alt. 2730 m, 1 May 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 6044 (Holotype: SEL).

This species is characterized by the congested inflorescence nearly as long as the ovate, acuminate leaf; the serrulate, pubescent sepals; the petals acuminate at both ends; and the blades of the lip with elongated, recurved bases.