

Lepanthes calypso Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 35.

Ety.: Named for the beautiful mythological nymph Calypso who lived in a far away place.

Planta mediocris, inflorescentia cum racemo congesto disticho folio late ovato obtuso breviter acuminato brevior, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque late ovatis subacutis leviter acuminatis denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore oblongo acuto quam lobo inferiore triangulari obtuso ter majore, labelli laminae oblongis minute pubescentibus, connectivis latis, appendice parva pubescenti biglandulosa.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls stout, erect, 7-8 cm long, enclosed by 10-11 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with dilated ostia. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, subacute, acuminate, 3.5-4.5 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 1.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 5 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 15 mm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long, glabrous; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** white suffused with pink, or yellow, denticulate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 6 mm long, connate 3 mm into an ovate synsepal 4.5 wide, the apices close, acute, acuminate; **petals** orange, more or less red at the base, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, thrice longer than the lower lobe, the apex oblique, acute, the lower lobe triangular, oblique, obtuse; **lip** red, bilaminar, the laminae oblong, 1.5 mm long, minutely pubescent, with the bases and apices rounded, the connectives and body broad, connate to the base of the column, the appendix oblong, bilobulate at the apex, pubescent; **column** 1.5 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

Morona-Santiago: epiphytic in forest along the road between Limón and Gualaceo, alt. 2800 m, Feb. 1989, A. Hirtz & X. Hirtz 4215 (Holotype MO), C. Luer illustr. 14714; A. Hirtz & X. Hirtz 4216 (MO); same area, Feb. 1990, A. Hirtz 4590, 4661 (MO).

This species, apparently endemic in southeastern Ecuador, is known from several plants with differently colored flowers collected by Alexander and Ximena Hirtz. It is characterized by the congested inflorescence shorter than the broadly ovate, acuminate leaf; denticulate sepals; pointed upper lobes of the petals with a very small lower lobe; and oblong blades of the lip with a rather complicated appendix with a pair of apical lobules.

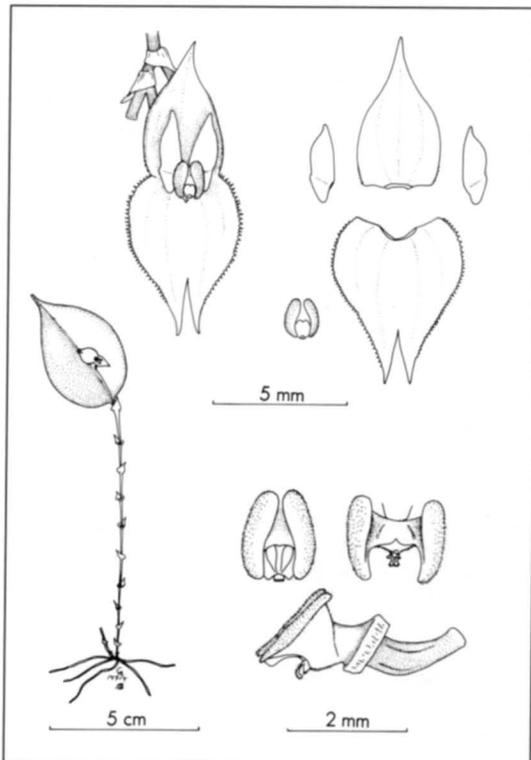


Fig. 35. *Lepanthes calypso*