

***Lepanthes magnifica* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta grandis caespitosa, inflorescentia folio magno ovato acuminato breviore, racemo congestissimo disticho multifloro, sepalis albis apicibus breviter acuminatis lateralibus pubescentibus, petalis transverse bilobatis, labelli laminis anguste oblongis glabris, appendice oblonga ciliata cum glandibus duobus terminalibus.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems stout, erect, 20-30 cm long, enclosed by 15-19 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, ciliate along the veins beneath, ovate, acute, acuminate, 12-15 cm long, 5-6.5 cm wide, the base rounded to subcordate, abruptly contracted into a twisted petiole 3-4 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 3 cm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 4 cm long along the back of the leaf; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals white, the dorsal sepal glabrous, triangular, the acute apex shortly acuminate, 12 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, connate basally to the lateral sepals for 2 mm, the lateral sepals oblong, pubescent, concave basally, 10-5 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate 3.5 mm, the obtuse apices abruptly contracted into recurved, setiform tails 1.5 mm long; petals white with a broad red margin, transversely oblong, oblique, obtuse, the lower lobe smaller; lip rose, the blades narrowly oblong, obtuse, glabrous, 2.25 mm long, the connectives short-cuneate, connate to the column above the base, the appendix oblong, ciliate, with a pair of terminal lobules; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *magnificus*, "magnificent," referring to the large plant with large white and purple flowers.

Type: ECUADOR: PINCHINCHA: epiphytic in cloud forest between Mindo and Puerto Quito, alt. 1600 m, 13 March 1982, C. Luer, A. Hirtz & S. Dalström 7333 (Holotype: SEL); above Mindo, alt. 2200 m, 15 Oct. 1979, A. Hirtz s.n. (SEL).

This huge, spectacular species is notable for the large white flower produced successively in a congested raceme behind the leaf. The lateral sepals are pubescent with the obtuse apices contracted into short tails; the small petals are rimmed in purple; the blades of the lip are glabrous and narrow; and the appendix is oblong and ciliate with a pair of apical lobules.