

***Lepanthes mammillata* Luer, sp. nov.**

Fig. 146.

Ety.: From the Latin *mammillatus*, "nipple-bearing," referring to the tips of the blades of the lip and the appendix.

Planta grandis, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima disticha folio ovato acuto brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis lateralibus minute pubescentibus, petalis transverse bilobis obtusis, labello bilaminato, laminis glabris anguste ovatis, appendice bipartido partibus mammiliformibus.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose, roots stout. Ramicauls stout, erect, 14-30 cm long, enclosed by up to 22 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute, 8.5 cm long, 2.4 cm wide (only one leaf present), the base cuneate into a petiole ca. 2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a very congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 30 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a peduncle 25-30 mm long; floral bracts 1.75 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 3.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, entire, carinate externally, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 8 mm long, 4.25 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, minutely pubescent, 8 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 3.5 mm; **petals** pink, cellular-pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lobes oblong, with the apices rounded and slightly dilated, the upper lobe slightly larger than the lower lobe; **lip** pink, glabrous, bilaminar, the blades narrowly ovate, with the bases rounded and the apices elongated, narrowly rounded, 2.25 mm long, the connectives broad and short, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, with the appendix divided medially into two mammiliform lobules; **column** 2 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Carchi: epiphytic in forest east of Maldonado, alt. 2500 m, 24 Feb. 1992, S. Dalström 1562 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 16221.

This species is known only from the type-collection. It is similar to the host of other large members of the genus with a tall, robust ramicaul that bears a very congested, successively flowered raceme behind an ovate leaf. The relatively large flower is also superficially similar to those of the others with ovate, acute sepals. *Lepanthes mammillata* is distinguished by the short pubescence of the lateral sepals; petals with slightly dilated, rounded ends; a glabrous lip with the apices of the laminae narrow and rounded; and an appendix divided into a pair of nipple-like processes. In the natural position, the tips of the laminae of the lip are held beside the processes of the appendix.

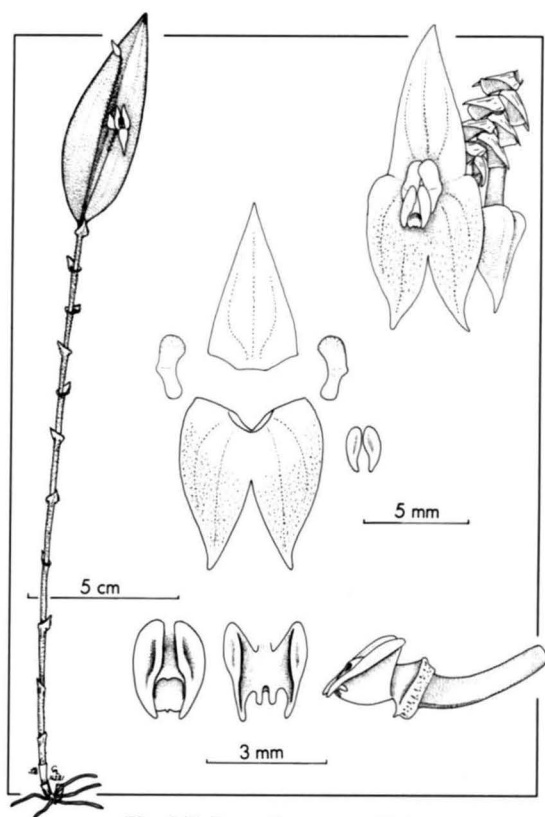


Fig. 146. *Lepanthes mammillata*