

***Lepanthes microphallica* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Greek *microphallos*, "a minute phallus," referring to the appendix.

Species haec *Lepanthides sillarensis* Schltr. similis, sed inflorescentia congesta folio brevior, columna minore nonarcuata quam labelli laminis brevior, et appendice minuta cum glandula terminali differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1-5 cm long, enclosed by 3-8 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, suffused with purple beneath, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 10-30 mm long, 6-11 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** 1 or 2 congested, successively many-flowered racemes up to 15 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 3-6 mm long; floral bracts 0.75-1 mm long; pedicels 0.75-1 mm long; ovary 1-2 mm long; **sepals** yellow, sometimes suffused with rose, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 3.5-4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, acute, oblique, 3.5 mm long, 1.5-1.75 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** yellow-orange to purple, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, 1-veined, the lobes oblong with obtuse ends, the upper lobe larger than the lower; **lip** bilaminar, the blades red to purple, cellular-glandular, oblong with rounded ends, 1.75 mm long, the connectives narrowly cuneate, from the bases, the body narrow, connate to the base of the column, the appendix in the sinus, deflexed, minute, oblong with a terminal gland; **column** terete, 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

La Paz: Nor Yungas, Chuspipata, alt. 2600 m, 21 Jan. 1988, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 12899 (Holotype of *L. microphallica*: MO); between Coroico and Coripata, alt. 2000 m, 3 Feb. 1980, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 5068 (SEL); Sud Yungas, along Río Unduavi, alt. 2480 m, 6 Feb. 1980, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez & M. Mannon 5138A (SEL).

Lepanthes microphallica is superficially similar to *L. sillarensis* Schltr., with similar, small, elliptical leaves and small flowers borne by a congested raceme that apparently remains shorter than the leaf. The sepals and petals are not remarkably different, but the blades of the lip of *L. microphallica* are nearly as long as the column they flank, while the blades of *L. sillarensis* are proportionately smaller as they partially cover a larger, arcuate column. The connectives of both species originate from the base of the column with the appendix in the sinus. The appendix of *L. microphallica* is minute and slender, with a terminal gland, not at all resembling the triangular, flaplike appendix of *L. sillarensis*.

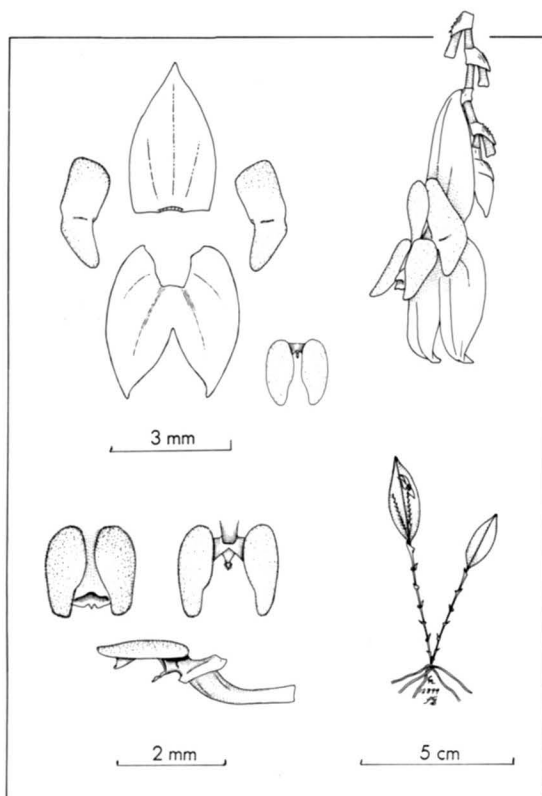


Fig. 36. *Lepanthes microphallica*