

**Lepanthes nontecta** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia folio ovato subacuto brevior, racemo congesto, sepalis glabris diaphanis ovatis subacutis, petalis transverse oblongis, labelli laminis ovatis apicibus acutis nontectis, appendice membranacea rotundata ciliata.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 20-35 mm tall, enclosed by 5-6 close, microscopically ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, purple beneath, ovate, subacute to obtuse, 12-18 mm long, 10-15 mm wide, the rounded base contracted into a twisted petiole ca. 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively flowered raceme up to 5 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 3-6 mm long behind the leaf; floral bract and pedicel each 1 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals glabrous, translucent light rose, ovate, subacute, connate basally, the dorsal sepal 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the lateral sepals 3 mm long, 1.9 mm wide; petals red-orange, transversely oblong, 1 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, truncate, the lower lobe triangular, acute; lip red, the blades ovate, 1.6 mm long, the apical third minutely ciliate on the inner margin, not covered by the more or less involute surface of the blade, the bases rounded, the connectives cuneate to a narrow body, connate to the column above the base, the appendix membranous, round, ciliate; column 1.25 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *nontectus*, "uncovered," referring to the apices of the blades of the lip.

Type: *ECUADOR*: NAPO: epiphytic in wet forest near Rio Jatunyacu west of Tena, alt. 600 m, 21 Feb. 1982, C. Luer & A. Hirtz 6887 (Holotype: SEL).

This small species with translucent flowers (not really unusual in the genus) is most notable for the apices of the blades of the lip which are uncovered extensions of the connectives. The more or less flattened top surface of the blade is lacking in the apical third. The appendix is a rounded, ciliate, shallowly concave membrane across the sinus.