

Lepanthes odontocera Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Fig. 170.

Ety.: From the Greek *odontoceras*, "tooth-horned," referring to the tuskl-like blades of the lip.

Planta mediocris, racemo congesto folio elliptico breviter acuminato brevior, sepalis acutis minute denticulatis, petalorum lobis triangularibus lobo superiore ter majore, labelli laminis anguste ovatis acuminatis et appendice filiformi.

Plant small to medium, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 3-9.5 cm long, enclosed by 7-10 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, more or less suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, 2-5 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, the apex subacute to obtuse, acuminate, the base broadly cuneate or rounded, contracted into a petiole 3-4 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 15 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 10-12 mm long; floral bract 1.5-2 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, minutely denticulate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, 6 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, approximate, acute, slightly acuminate, 5.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 1 mm; **petals** yellow, variously to wholly suffused with red-purple, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, the lobes narrowly triangular, obtuse, the upper lobe thrice larger, with a small, obtuse, marginal angle between the lobes; **lip** yellow, bilaminar, the blades microscopically pubescent, narrowly ovate, acute, narrowly acuminate, 2.6 mm long, the bases rounded, the connectives cuneate, from below the middle of the blades, the body narrow, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, with a small but elongated, slender, appendix, in contact with a stigmatic process; **column** stout, 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Tungurahua: Llanganates Range, Leito, alt. 3000 m, 11 Oct. 1984, A. Hirtz 1984 (MO); same area, alt. 3000 m, 6 Dec. 1984, A. Hirtz 2129 (MO); same area, alt. 3100 m, 11 Apr. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & W. Flores 11173 (Holotype: MO); same data, C. Luer et al. 11151, 11154, 11164, 11172 (MO).

This species is apparently endemic in forests of the eastern declivity of central Ecuador at altitudes over 3000 meters above sea level. Vegetatively it is variable in size, and is similar to many other species with the elliptical, acuminate leaves and a shorter, congested raceme of colorful flowers. The sepals are acute and minutely denticulate and the petals are bilobed with opposite, triangular lobes. Most distinguishing are the pair of tuskl-like blades of the lip. The tip of the small, slender appendix is associated with a stigmatic process,

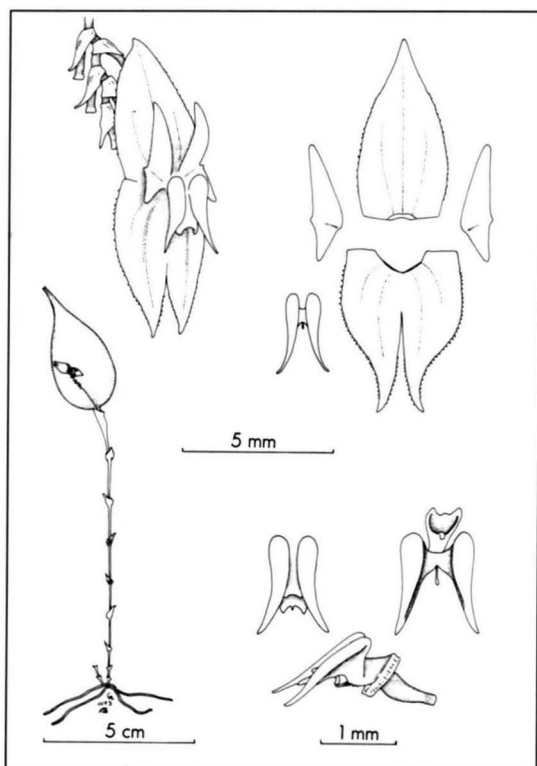


Fig. 170. *Lepanthes odontocera*