

Lepanthopsis culiculosa Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva, caulibus secundariis plus minusve proliferantibus, racemo stricto disticho dense multifloro foliis anguste ellipticis longiore, floribus minutis simultaneis, sepalis ovatis uninerviis, petalis obtusis, labello transverse cordato.

Plant small, epiphytic, ?caespitose, ?normally prolific; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 2 or more cm long, enclosed by 3 or more microciliate lepanthiform sheaths, branching and rooting at the apex of an incomplete stem in the specimen at hand. Leaf erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, 17-22 mm long, 5 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence an erect, straight, distichous, dense, simultaneously many-flowered raceme up to 38 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle up to 20 mm long, the flowers minute, bright yellow; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 0.25 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; sepals glabrous, ovate, narrowly obtuse, 1-veined, the dorsal sepal 1.3 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the lateral sepals 1.5 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm; petals oblong, obtuse, 0.4 mm long, 0.15 mm wide; lip transverse-

ly ovate-cordate, 0.6 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the apex obtuse to rounded, the basal angles obtuse, to either side of the column; column hooded, 0.5 mm long and wide.

Etymology: From the Latin culiculosus, "with gnats," referring to the numerous, minute flowers.

Type: Ecuador: Prov. of Napó: Cosanga, alt. 2000 m, 1983, A. Hirtz 978 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 9169; Prov. of Zamora-Chinchi: Vilcabamba, alt. 2100 m, D. D'Alessandro 102A (SEL).

This species seems similar to the Venezuelan L. steyermarkii Foldats, but the longer leaves and longer, straight, densely flowered racemes distinguish L. culiculosa. Both species have very small, 1-veined sepals. Lepanthopsis culiculosa is also similar to L. vinacea C. Schweinf., but the former has ecaudate sepals on an extremely reduced scale.