

Lepanthes composita Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *compositus*, "of different parts," in allusion to the similarity of certain floral parts to those of other species.

Species haec *L. pilosellae* Rchb.f. affinis, sed sepalo postico erecto late obovato truncato non concavo et labelli lobo anteriore deflexo distinguitur.

Plant average in size for the subgenus, epiphytic, pendent, with branches up to 20 cm long or longer, the rhizomes slender, 2-3 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2 long-ciliate, imbricating, lepanthiform sheaths; roots slender, from nodes near the base of the branches. Ramicauls 0.5 mm long, concealed by 1 long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheath. **Leaf** pendent in the natural position, coriaceous, lenticiform, long-pubescent, broadly elliptical, obtuse, 7-8 mm long, 5-8 mm wide, 3-veined, the base contracted into a petiole less than 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a single flower, borne by an ascending peduncle 1 mm long from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bract long-ciliate, 1 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary minutely verrucose, 1 mm long; **sepals** color unknown, membranous, glabrous, the dorsal sepal broadly obovate, erect, subtruncate, 6 mm long, 5 mm wide, 5-veined, essentially free from the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, subacute, 4.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate 1.25 mm, 2-veined; **petals** ciliate, obliquely triangular-ovate, 1.5 mm long, 0.75 mm wide; **lip** glabrous, obscurely 3-lobed, 2 mm long, 2.3 mm wide expanded, with the apical lobe triangular, deflexed, with the lateral or basal lobes erect, obliquely triangular, embracing the column, the base connate to the base of the column; column 1.5 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Risaralda: epiphytic in forest remnant above Pereira, alt. ca. 2000 m, Jan. 1993, A. DeWilde 397 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 16580.

Features of this species are reminiscent of several of the other species of the subgenus. In habit, it is similar to most of them with average-sized, pubescent leaves. The sepals are glabrous. The erect, obovate, only slightly concave dorsal sepal is similar to that of *L. platysepala*. The spreading lateral sepals are similar to those of *L. micropetala*. The ciliate petals are similar to those of *L. catella*. The lip is similar to that of *L. lupula* or *L. micropetala* but with a de-curved apical lobe.

