

Lepanthes tridactyla Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *tridactylos*, "three-fingered," referring to the shape of the petals.

Species haec *L. platysepalae* Luer & Escobar similis, sed synsepalo angustiore, petalis trifurcatis, et labello ovato obtuso quam columna longiore differt.

Plant medium in size for the subgenus *Brachycladium*, epiphytic, pendent, long-repent, up to 10 cm long or longer, the rhizome 4-5 mm long between ramicauls, each segment enclosed by 2 long-spiculate sheaths with dilated, long-ciliate ostia; roots slender, along the rhizome. Ramicauls abbreviated, 1 mm long, enclosed by a long-pubescent sheath. **Leaf** descending, coriaceous, long-pubescent, elliptical, subacute, 8-10 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, 3-veined, the base cuneate into a petiole less than 0.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a single flower, borne by a slender, upcurved peduncle 0.5 mm long; floral bract long-pubescent, 1 mm long; pedicel 0.5 mm long; ovary 0.6 mm long; **sepals** yellowish with purple-brown stripes, glabrous, the dorsal sepal shallowly concave, obovate, obtuse to subacute, 7.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 7-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals connate 2.5 mm into a narrowly ovate, bifid synsepal with acute apices, 6 mm long, 3 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** glabrous, narrowly trifurcate, 3 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the lobes slender, the middle lobe longest, with basal lobes ca. 0.5 mm long; **lip** glabrous, ovate-shield-shaped, obtuse, 2.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide expanded, with the sides and the narrowly obtuse basal lobes erect, to the side of the column, the base connate to the base of the column; **column** terete, 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

ECUADOR: **Zamora-Chinchipec**: San Francisco station between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2200 m, 9 June 2000, *F. Werner 329B* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19427.

This species, known only from this original collection, is superficially similar to *L. platysepala* because of the large, erect, obovate, obtuse, shallowly concave, striped dorsal sepal. The lateral sepals form a narrowly ovate, bifid synsepal. The petals are trifid, with a long, middle segment and a short segment at either side of the base. The ovate-oblong lip protrudes beyond the column while the sides curve up to either side of the column.