

Lepanthes aculeata Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, foliis ovatis acutis superficie scrobiculata et aculeata, racemo congesto folio brevior, sepalis subaequalibus ovatis obtusis ciliatis, petalis transverse bilobatis lobis inaequalibus, labelli laminis falcatis, appendice loriformi pubescenti.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems erect, slender, 3-9.5 cm long, enclosed by 7-17 close, ciliated lepanthiform sheaths with widely dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, acuminate, acute, 17-27 mm long, 10-14 mm wide, the under surface covered by numerous small depressions and excavations with the elevated ridges echinate-pubescent, the margins erose-scabrous, the rounded base abruptly contracted into a petiole 1-2 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle ca. 5 mm long along the back surface of the leaf; floral bract 0.75 mm long; pedicel 1.25 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals green, suffused with red, subequal, broadly ovate, obtuse, shortly ciliate, connate basally, the dorsal sepal 2 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the lateral sepals 1.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide; petals redorange, transversely bilobed, 0.8 mm long, 2.66 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, obtuse, the lower lobe smaller, narrowly oblong, oblique, obtuse; lip redorange, the blades oblong, 1.3 mm long, the apices uncinata, acute, the bases rounded, the connectives broadly cuneate, lifting the blades above the column, connate to the under surface of the column above the base, the appendix strap-shaped, pubescent, hinged to the sinus; column 0.75 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *aculeatus*, "covered with prickles," in reference to the under surface of the leaf.

TYPE: *ECUADOR:* NAPO: epiphytic in cloud forest north of Baeza, alt. ca. 1500 m, 10 Aug. 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & A. Andreetta 3203 (Holotype: SEL); same area, alt. 1650 m, 30 Oct. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4482 (SEL); *MORONA-SANTIAGO:* near Rio Calagrás, alt. 1650 m, 4 Nov. 1982, C. Luer, R. Escobar & D. D'Alessandro 8279 (SEL).

The under surfaces of the leaves of this species are minutely but deeply rugose with the elevated ridges erose and spiculate. The sepals are broadly ovate, about equal in size and shape and shortly ciliate. The connectives of the lip lift the blades well above the column, and the hinged appendix protrudes from the sinus.