

***Lepanthes altamiranoi* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for Saul Altamirano, co-collector of this species.

Species haec *Lepanthidis crista-piscibus* Luer similis, sed habitu minore folio anguste ovato acuto, racemo brevo recurvo, sepalis lateralibus non-plicatis differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2.5-4 cm long, enclosed by 4-5 minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, 2-3 cm long, 4-5 mm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 2-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, recurved, successively 3- to 4-flowered raceme, up to 1 cm long, including the peduncle ca. 3 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** with color unknown, ovate, acute, shortly acuminate, minutely denticulate, the dorsal sepal 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined, connate less than 1 mm; **petals** transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, microscopically pubescent, the upper lobe oblong with the tip rounded, 1.25 mm long, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, 0.75 mm long; **lip** minutely pubescent, the blades oblong, 1.75 mm long, with obtuse tips incurved beneath the apex of the column, the connectives broadly cuneate, connate to the column above the base, the appendix a microscopic lobule, pubescent; **column** 1.5 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Cochabamba: Arani, mesobosque montano humedo, localidad El Limbo, alt. 2180 m, 12 June 2003, S. Altamirano, E. Zurita, T. Camacho, M. Aliaga & A. Lacaze 871 (Holotype of *L. altamiranoi*: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21489.

This species, known from a single collection in central Bolivia, is characterized by a small, narrowly ovate, acute leaf, and a short, recurved, few-flowered raceme. The sepals are ovate, acute, acuminate and denticulate; the petals are transversely bilobed with the upper lobe oblong and the lower lobe triangular; the apices of the blades of the lip curve beneath the column; and the appendix is microscopic.

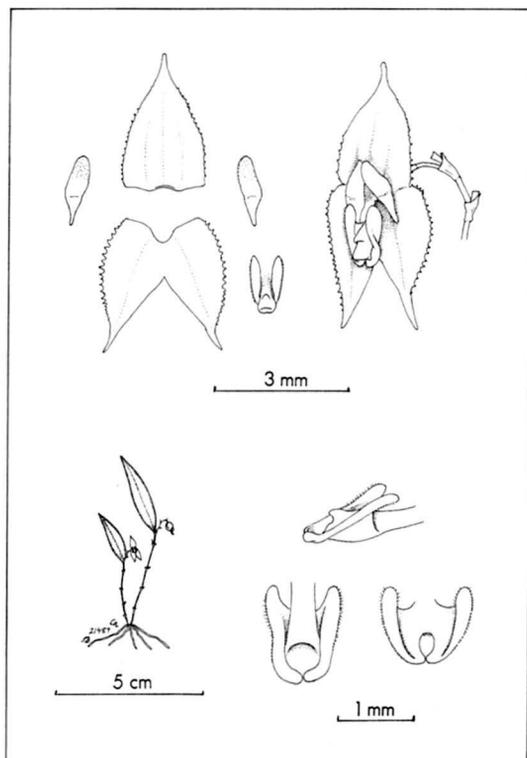


Fig. 2. *Lepanthes altamiranoi*