

longo brevicaudato, lobo inferiore longicaudato, labelli bilaminato, laminis anguste ovatis acutis, connectivis late cuneatis, appendice intricatissima.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 7-28 cm tall, enclosed by 9-16 coarsely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, rugose beneath, oblong-ovate, 5-12 cm long, 2-4.5 cm wide, the acute to obtuse apex abruptly acuminate, the rounded base abruptly contracted into a twisted petiole 2-4 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 20 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 20-35 mm long; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicels 0.75 mm long; ovary 2.5-5 mm long; sepals light yellow, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, acute, 6.25-7.5 mm long, 3.25-4 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, diverging, 5.5-7.5 mm long, 3.5-5 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; petals yellow with red-purple upper margins, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, the blade of the petal 2 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, obliquely and obtusely truncate, the inner, upper angle produced into a short tail ca. 1 mm long, the lower lobe similar but much shorter with the inner, lower angle produced into a slender, recurved tail ca. 3 mm long; lip rose, bilaminate, the blades narrowly ovate, acute, glabrous, 1.8 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate with a broad body connate to the base of the column, the sinus broad with an intricate appendix 0.5 mm long, broadly hinged with a minutely pubescent membrane, the terminal segment concave, bilobed, pubescent, with a pair of extremely thin, cobweb-like reins connecting it to the base; column stout, 2.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

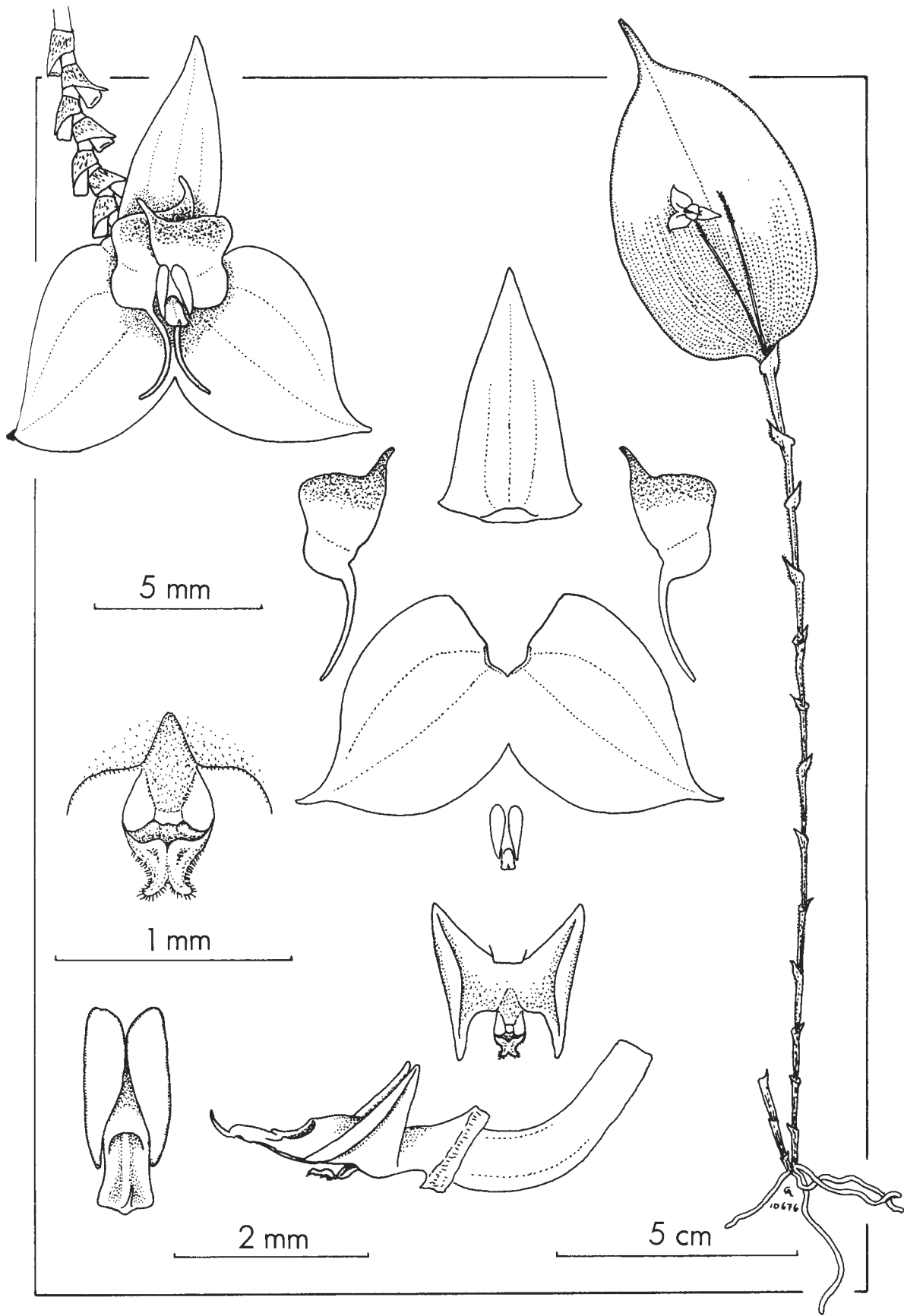
ETYMOLOGY: Named for similarity of the pair of petals to the long-tailed wings of the moth *Actias luna* L.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of El Oro: epiphytic in cloud forest below Piñas, alt. 1000 m, 20 Mar. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & W. Flores 10676 (Holotype: MO); Prov. of Carchi: epiphytic in cloud forest above Maldonado, alt. 2300 m, 3 Apr. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström & T. Höijer 9933 (MO).

This large, handsome species has been found in two widely separated localities. Vegetatively, it is similar to many others, but the long tails of the petals make it easily recognized. Most unusual, however, is the peculiarly hinged appendix that swings by a pair of cobweb-like threads from the basal, membranous portion. The terminal segment of the appendix is composed of a pair of back-to-back, obliquely crescent-shaped, pubescent lobes.

***Lepanthes actias-luna* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Planta grandis, folio oblongo-ovato acuminato inflorescentia racemosa congesta longiore, sepalis ovatis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore ob-



Lepanthes actias-luna Luer & Hirtz