

Lepanthes barbatula Luer & Vásquez, *sp. nov.* TYPE: BOLIVIA. Dept. of Santa Cruz: Prov. Caballero, north of Comarapa, alt. 2380 m, 2 Nov. 1990, *R. Vásquez, D. Ric & A. Burela 1277* (Holotype: MO; Isotype, herb. Vasquezianum), C. Luer illustr. 15534. Fig. 2.

Planta parvula caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa laxa fractiflexa folio late elliptico longiore, sepalis ovatis acuminatis lateralibus divergentibus, petalis bilobis, lobis filiformibus lobo inferiore duplo longiore, labello bilobato, lobis crassis cuneatis marginibus superioribus laminas angustas formantibus, appendice anguste lineari ciliata.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** erect, slender, 7-13 mm long, enclosed by 3-4 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical to orbicular, obtuse, 7-10 mm long, 5-8 mm wide, with the rounded base contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, distichous, flexuous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 3 cm long including the slender peduncle 5-13 mm long; floral bracts 0.5-1 mm long, muriculate; pedicels 0.5-0.75

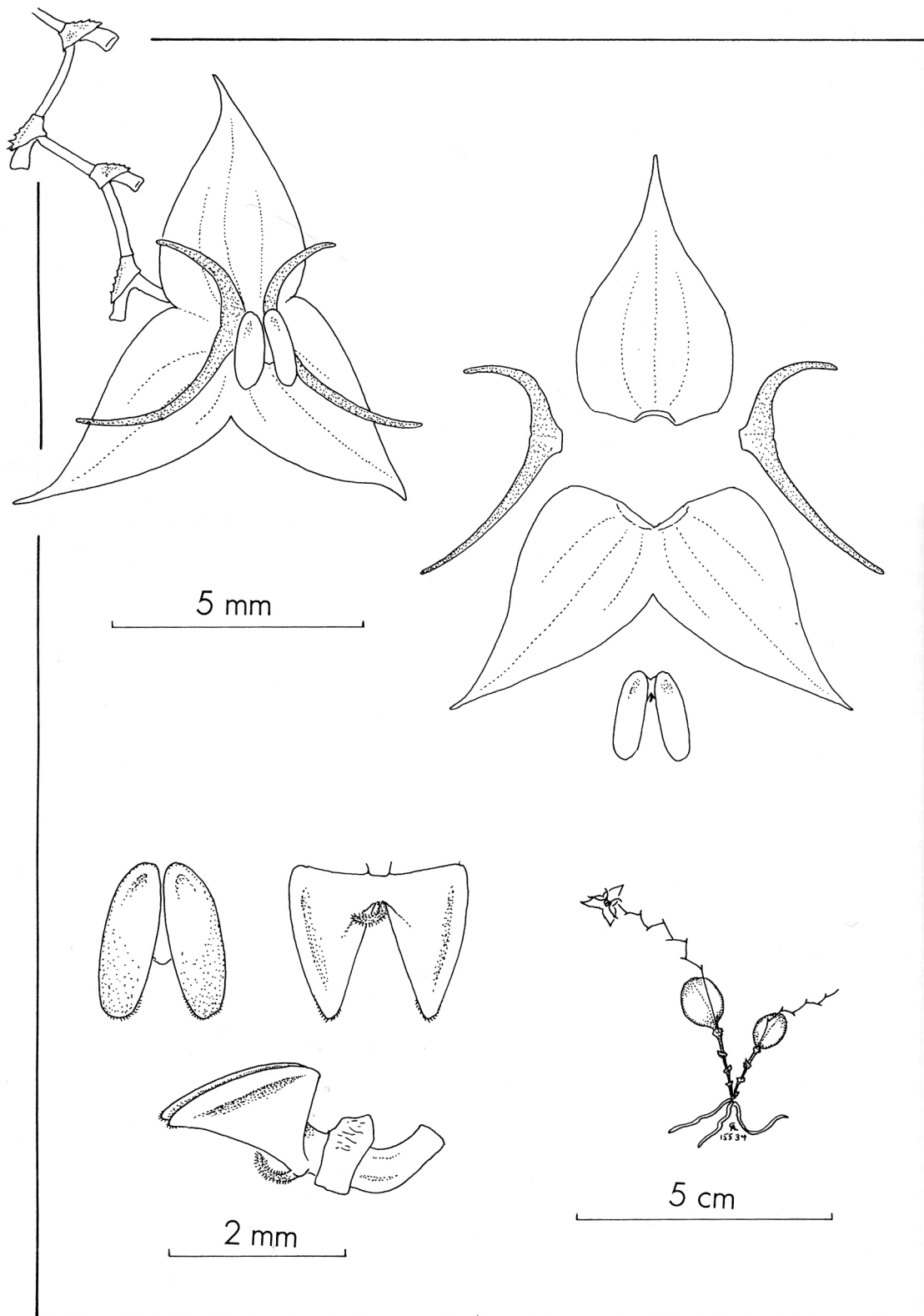


Fig. 2. *Lepanthes barbatula* Luer & Vásquez

mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; **sepals** carinate, entire, ovate, acute, acuminate, the dorsal sepal 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals diverging, oblique, 5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; petals microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long at the base, 6 mm wide, the lobes filiform, arcuate, the upper lobe 2.5 mm long, the lower lobe 3.5 mm long; **lip** bilaminate, the lobes cellular pubescent, narrowly elliptical, flat, with rounded ends, minutely ciliate at the apex, 1.75 mm long, the connectives cuneate with a narrow body, connate to the base of the column, the appendix narrowly linear, ciliate; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, with the anther dorsal and the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *barbatulus*, “with barbels,” referring to the appearance of the lobes of the petals.

This little species is easily distinguished from all the others in the genus by the loose, flexuous raceme longer than the suborbicular leaves; acuminate, diverging sepals; bilobed petals with the lobes filiform and curving outward; and narrowly oblong blades of the lip formed as flat margins of cuneate connectives with a narrow, ciliate appendix. Although no close relatives are recognized, the crescent-shaped petals are similar to those of the Colombian *L. antennifera* Luer & Escobar.