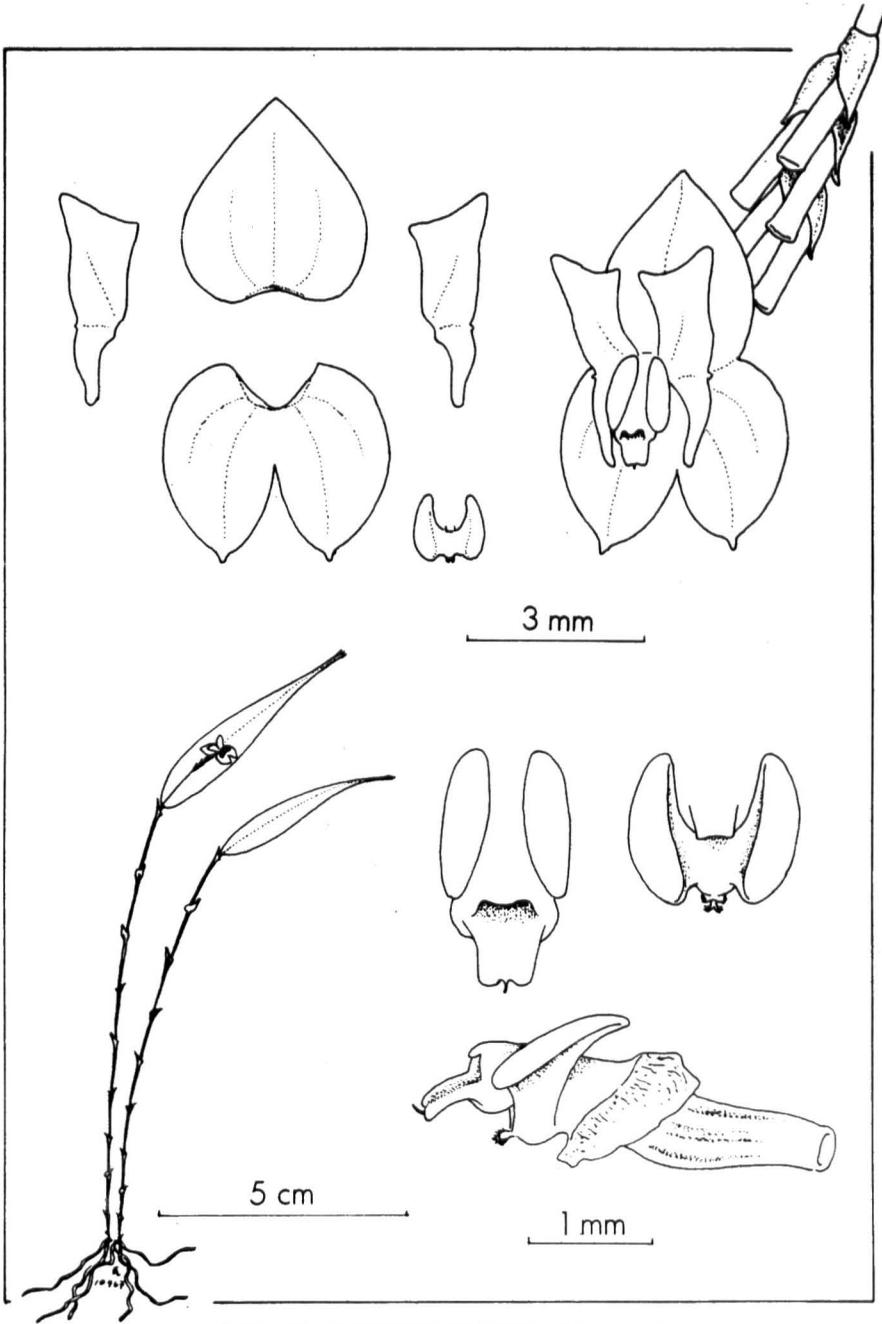


*Lepanthes cerambyx* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva vel mediocris, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima folio anguste ovato acuminato brevior, sepalis ovatis obtusis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore erecto oblongo truncato angulis subacuminatis, lobo inferiore anguste oblongo, labelli laminis quam columna minoribus ellipticis connectivis supra medium, sinu protuberanti, appendice pubescenti segmento apicali bifido.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-10 cm long, enclosed by 6-10 close, glabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, acuminate, apiculate, 3-5 cm long, 0.5-0.9 cm wide, the base cuneate to an indistinct petiole 1 mm long, or without a petiole. Inflorescence a very congested, successively flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 4-10 mm long; floral bracts imbricating, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2-3 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals yellow, lightly veined in purple, ovate, obtuse, the dorsal sepal 3.5 mm long, 2.8 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 3.25 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 0.75 mm; petals glabrous, orange, suffused with red medially, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, the upper lobe erect in the natural position, oblong, obliquely truncate, with the angles lightly acuminate and rounded, the lower lobe narrowly oblong, obtuse; lip bilaminate, glabrous, at most microscopically pubescent, the blades purple, elliptical with rounded ends, 1.2 mm long, the connectives cuneate, from the anterior half of the blades, the body broad, connate to the column at the base, the sinus protruding with a small but broad, pubescent appendix with a bilobed apical



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segment; column comparatively large and thick, 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek *kerambyx*, "a horned beetle," referring to the imagined appearance of the flower on the leaf.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Cocorná, Rio Cocorná, alt 1600 m, Autopista between Medellín and Bogotá, 21 Aug. 1984, *R. Escobar, C. Head, & E. Valencia 3382* (Holotype: JAUM, Isotypes: COL, MO), *C. Luer illustr. 10467*.

This little species is recognized by the narrowly ovate leaves bearing on the dorsal surface a colorful, little flower with prominent, erect, obliquely truncate upper lobes of the petals, reminiscent of the horns of a beetle. The sepals are broad and obtuse, and the lobes of the lip are smaller than the column.



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Photograph: Rodrigo Escobar R.

Grower: Marta & Oscar Robledo.