

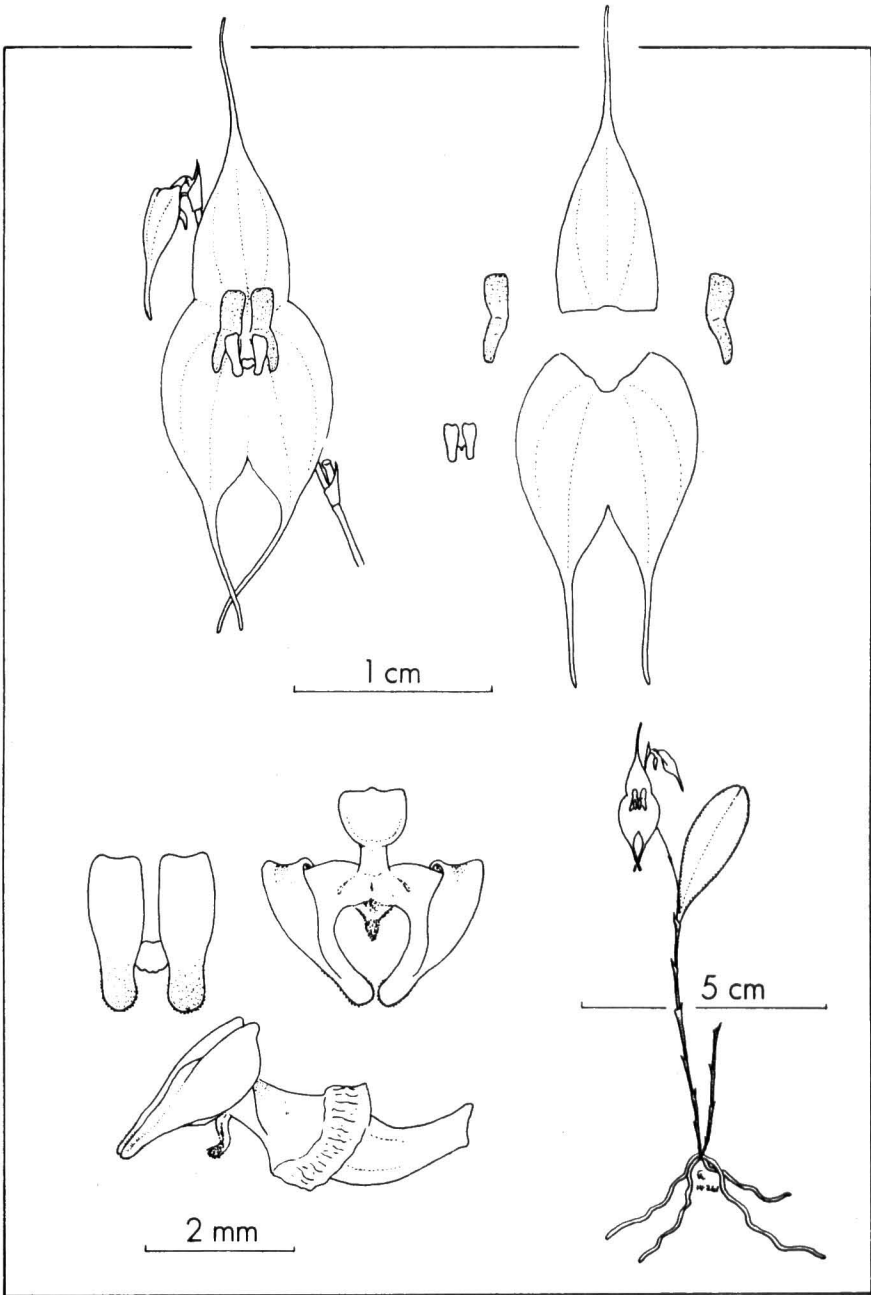
*Lepanthes helgae* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva, inflorescentia racemosa laxa pauciflora folio elliptico plus minusve aequilonga, sepalis ovatis acutis longiacuminatis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore oblongo truncato, lobo inferiore oblongo obtuso, labelli laminis oblongis basi profunde convexis cucullatis, apice rotundatis, connectivis partim intra laminam labelli obtectis, appendice triangulari crassa pubescenti.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2.5-5.5 cm long, enclosed by 6-7 microscopically ciliate-scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 1.5-2.7 cm long, 0.8-1.2 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence a loose, successively few-flowered raceme 2-3 cm long including the slender peduncle 1.5 mm long; floral bract 2 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals large, translucent yellow, entire, ovate, acute, long-acuminate into slender tails 6 mm long, the dorsal sepal 15 mm long including the tail, 5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 17 mm long including the tails, connate 6 mm, 9 mm wide together, each 2-veined; petals red, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the upper lobe suboblong, truncate, the lower lobe narrowly suboblong, obtuse, about as long as the upper lobe; lip red, bilaminar, the blades oblong, 2 mm long, the apices rounded, microscopically pubescent, the bases subtruncate and deeply concave from below and enveloping the connectives, the connectives oblong, mostly concealed within the cucullate base of the blades, the body thick, connate to the base of the column, the appendix thick, broadly triangular, acute, pubescent; column slender, 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Named in honor of Helga Königer, who with her husband Willibald Königer of München, Germany, discovered this species.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Abejorral, vereda La Labor, epiphytic in cloud forest, alt. 2250 m, collected 14 Aug. 1988 by H. & W. Königer, R. Escobar et al. K-165a (Herb. H. Königer), flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 18 Mar. 1989, C. Luer 14261 (Holotype: MO).



*Lepanthes helgae* Luer & Escobar

This attractive species, apparently endemic in a small area of the Central Cordillera, is distinguished by the large, long-tailed flower produced in a loosely flowered raceme about as long as the leaf. Most distinctive, however, is the pair of labellar blades. The apices are rounded and flat, but the bases are deeply concave from beneath. The connectives are contained within the cucullate bases of the blades.