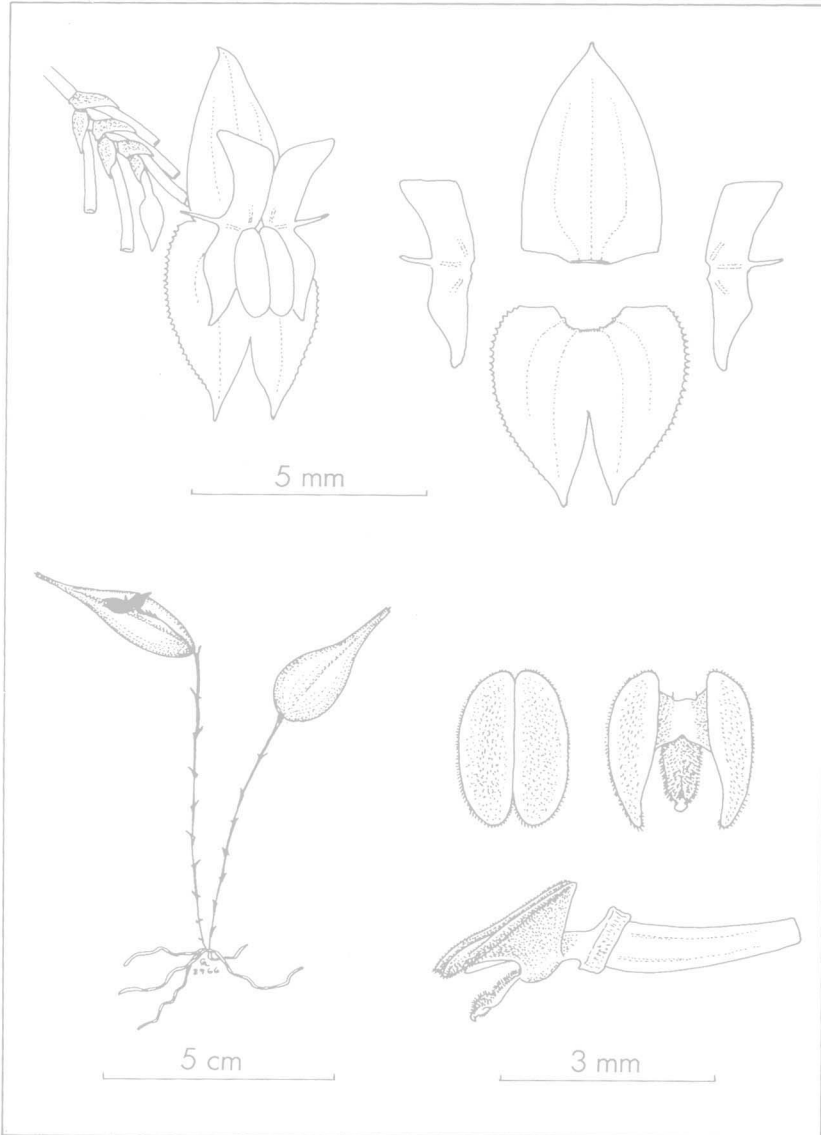


Lepanthes isosceles Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva, racemo flaccido arcuato pendentem laxifloro foliis ellipticis longiore, sepalis similibus anguste triangularibus, petalis minutis transverse bilobis, labelli

laminis minutis basim columnae elongatae amplexantibus, appendice microscopica.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 2-5 cm long, enclosed by 6-7 lepanthiform sheaths with microscopically ciliate, dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, 30-37 mm long including a 3 mm long petiole, 8-10 mm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflores-



Lepanthes habenifera

Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

cence a flaccid, arcuate to pendent, lax, successively flowered raceme up to 15 cm long including the filiform peduncle *ca.* 2 cm long; floral bract 2 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals similar, yellow, suffused diffusely with light

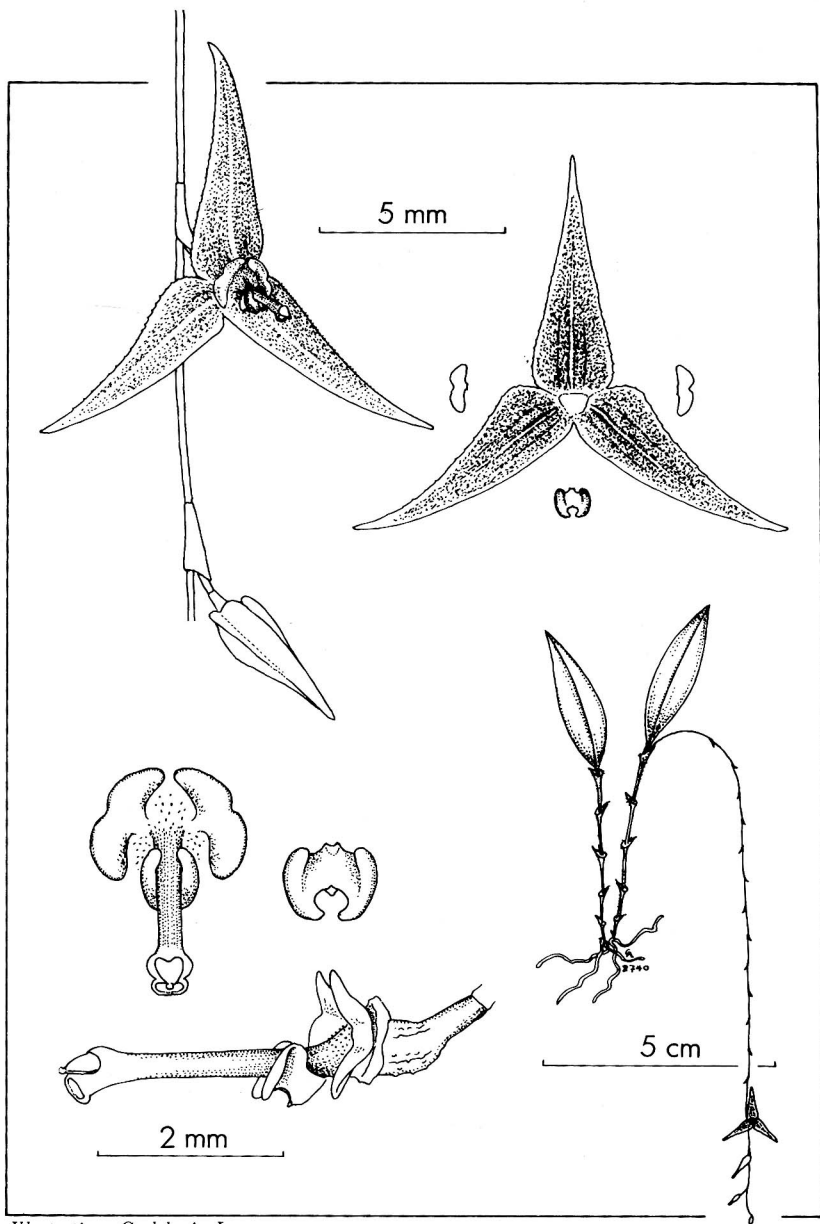


Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

Lepanthes isosceles

brown, densely microscopically pubescent, cellular denticulate, narrowly triangular, three-veined, acute, essentially free to the base, 6.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide; petals orange, suffused with red, transversely oblong, 0.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the lobes equal with rounded ends; lip minute, orange, suffused with red, the blades oblong-lunate, 0.8 mm long, embracing the column above the base, the ends rounded, the connectives broadly cuneate, connate to the base of the column, the appendix minute, triangular; column rose, slender, cylindrical, 3 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *isosceles*, "three-legged," in reference to the three equal sepals.

TYPE: COLOMBIA: MAGDALENA: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, along the road to the TV antenna, alt. 2500 m, April 1981, collected by R. Escobar, D. Portillo *et al.*, flowered in cultivation by L. & J. Posada at Colomborquideas, El Retiro, 20 Apr. 1983, *C. Luer 8740* (Holotype: SEL), 13 Jan. 1984, *R. Escobar 3192* (Clonotype: JAUM).



Photography: Rodrigo Escobar
Lepanthes isosceles

Unusual in the genus is the long, drooping, loosely flowered raceme of successive flowers of this species. The narrowly triangular sepals are free and essentially equal, the petals are minute, and the tiny lip embraces the base of a long, protruding column.

