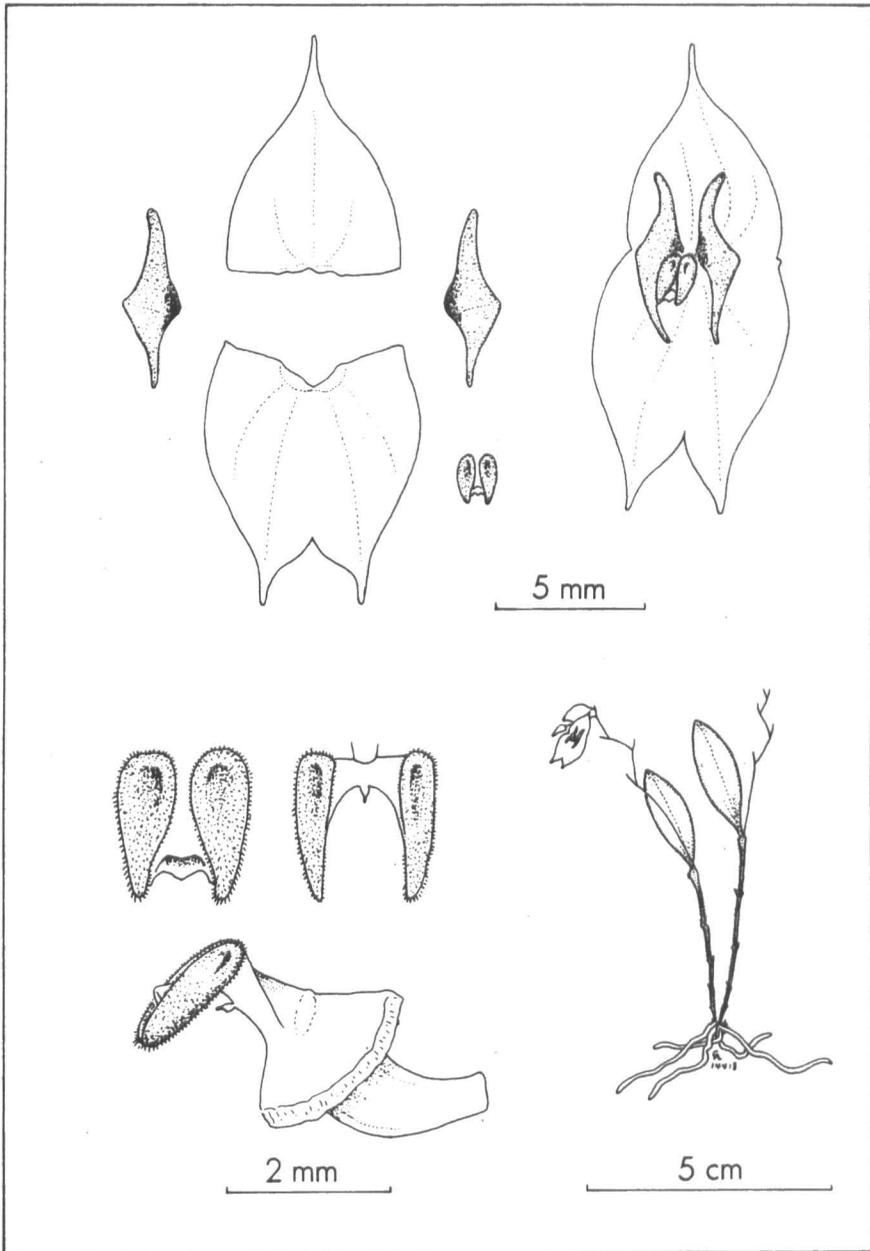


*Lepanthes marthae* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia laxa racemosa disticha



*Lepanthes marthae* Luer & Escobar

folio elliptico plus minusve duplolongiore, sepalis integris breviter acuminatis, petalis transverse bilobatis lobis subaequalibus anguste triangularibus microscopicè pubescentibus, labelli laminis anguste ovatis pubescentibus, connectivis basalibus angustis, appendice minuta bisegmentata.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3-4 cm long, enclosed by 4-5 coarsely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple, elliptical, acute, 20-28 mm long, 6-9 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole about 1 mm long. Inflorescence a loose, distichous, successively few-flowered raceme up to at least 30 mm long, borne beyond the leaf by a slender peduncle 10-15 mm long; floral bracts 2 mm long; pedicels 1.5-2 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals translucent yellow, mottled with red between the veins, the margins entire but microscopically cellular-glandular, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate-triangular, concave, 8 mm long, 6 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the apex subacute, shortly acuminate, the lateral sepals connate 5 mm into a broadly ovate lamina, 8.5 mm long, 7.5 mm wide, 4-veined, the apices subacute, shortly acuminate; petals orange, red at the base, cellular-glandular, transversely bilobed, 1.5 mm long, 6 mm wide, the lobes narrowly triangular, upper lobe narrowly obtuse, the lower lobe slightly smaller, acute; lip orange with red edges, bilaminar, the blades ovate, concave near the base, pubescent, the apices narrowly obtuse, the bases rounded, 1.8 mm long, the connectives narrow, from the base, the body narrow, connate to the column above the base, the sinus obtuse with a minute, ovoid, bisegmented appendix; column 2 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Named in honor of Sra. Martha Posada de Robledo, who with Sra. Ligia Moreno de Posada, discovered this species.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Urrao, El Chuzcal, alt. 2200 m, July 1987, collected by M. de Robledo & L. de Posada, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, Aug. 1989, *J. M. Munera & R. Escobar 160* (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 14418.

This species is closely allied to *Lepanthes effusa* Schltr. and *L. millei* Schltr., both known only from Ecuador. *Lepanthes marthae* is distinguished from them, by the coarse roots and

coarsely pubescent, lepanthiform sheaths, and by the shortly acuminate sepals. The petals are inserted onto the column above the base. The blades of the lip are supported from their bases by narrow connectives. The appendix is minute and bisegmented.