

Lepanthes necopina Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio ovato brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis, petalis transverse oblongis obtusis, labello bilaminato, laminis crassis trapeziformibus longiciliatis, corpore latissimo, appendice minutissima glandulosa, columna clavata, rostello crasso oblongo pubescenti, stigmatate bilobato, lobis antheram amplectentibus.

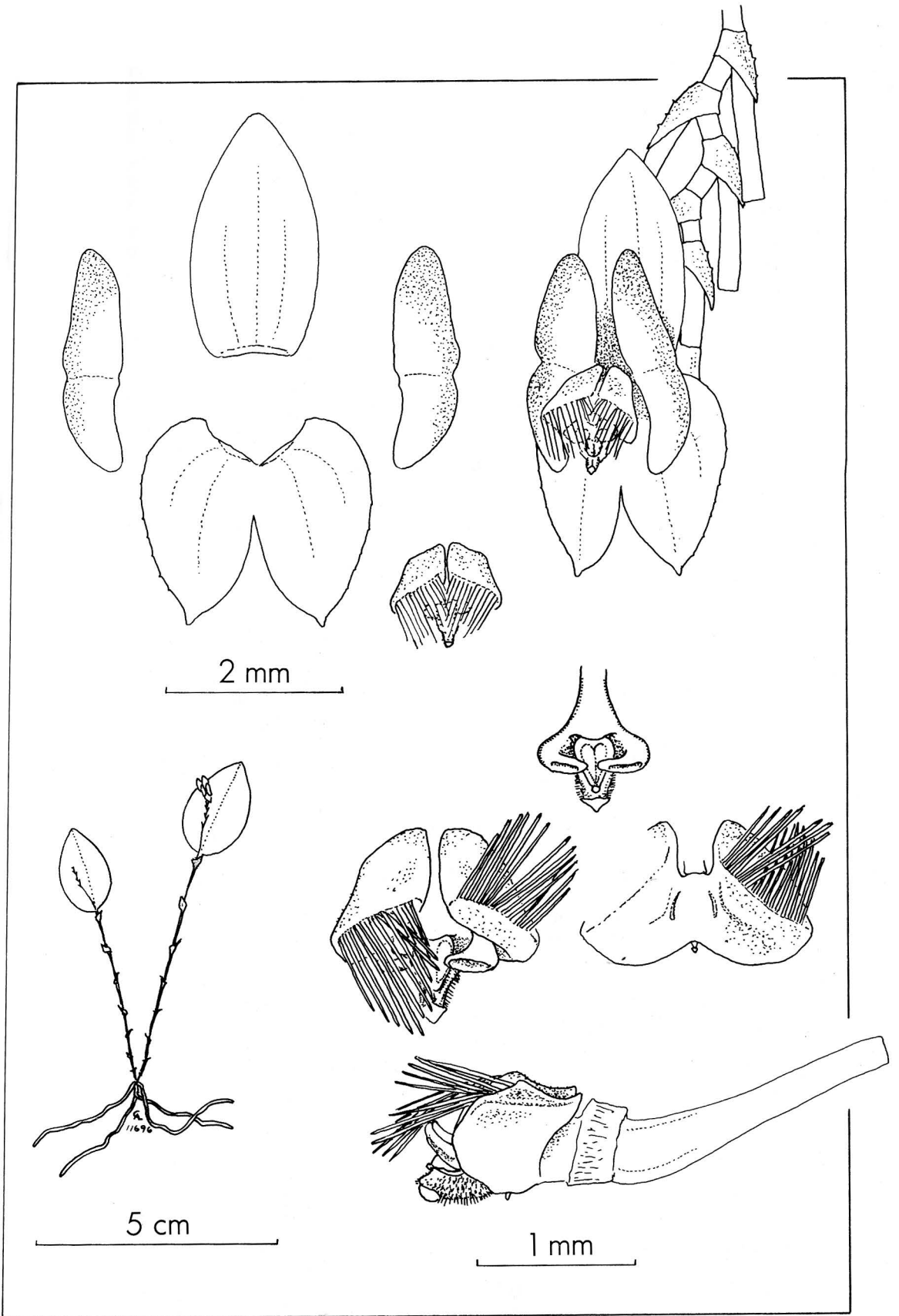
Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2.5-5 cm long, enclosed by 6-9 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, subacute, 15-21 mm long, 11-14 mm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 6-9 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long, microscopically sparsely spiculate; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals light yellow, ovate, acute, low-carinate, the dorsal sepal 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.3 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 2.25 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm; petals orange, suffused with red on the margins, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.9 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the lobes oblong, obtuse, the upper longer than the lower; lip bilaminar, red-orange, the laminae thick, obliquely trapeziform, microscopically pubescent, 1 mm long, the anterior margins obliquely truncate and with a row of long, stiff cilia overlying the protruding column, the connectives broadly rounded, the body broad, connate to the

base of the column, the sinus obtuse with a minute appendix with a terminal gland; column 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, flanked by stigmatic lobes that curve over the dorsal surface of the anther, the rostellum oblong, pubescent, channeled, with a triangular gland at the apex, the stigma bilobed with the receptive surfaces curved over the anther.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *necopinus*, "unexpected," in allusion to the peculiar column beneath the ciliated margins of the blades of the lip.

TYPE: ECUADOR: Prov. of Zamora-Chinipe: epiphytic in cloud forest south of Yangana, alt. 2200 m, May 1985, A. Hirtz 2631 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 11696.

This species is related to the much larger Central American *L. mystax* Luer & Escobar. Both have a row of long, stiff cilia along the anterior margin of the blades of the lip. The underlying column is most remarkable in that the receptive surfaces of the bilobed stigma curve around and over the dorsal anther. The rostellum, upon which the anther rests, is thick, oblong, channeled, and pubescent with a terminal triangular gland, very similar to the appearance of many appendices of other species. The appendix of *L. necopina* is a minute structure, apparently vestigial, away from the area of pollination activity.



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