



125. *LEPANTHES OCTOPUS*  
Luer & R. Escobar

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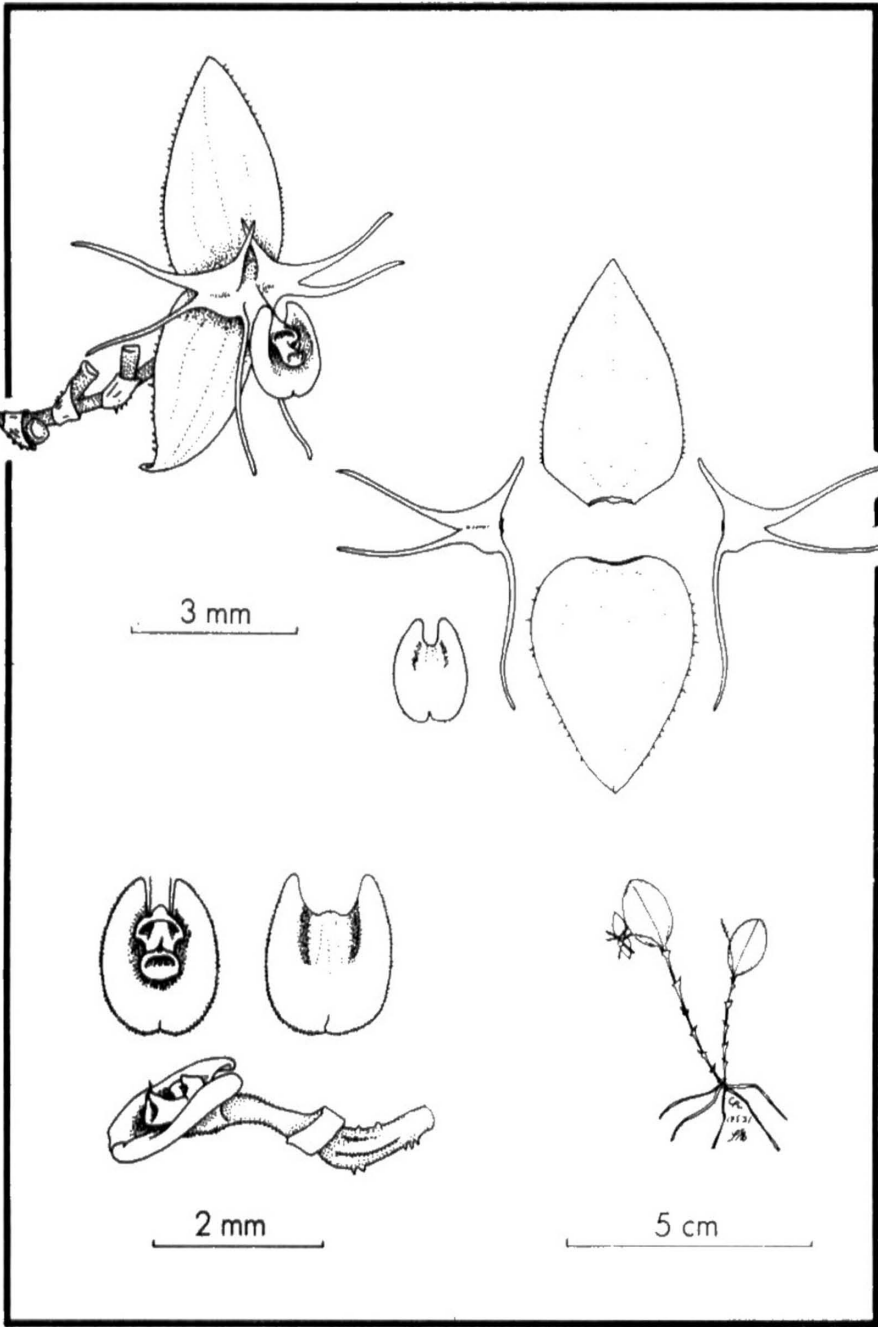
Planta parva, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio elliptico obtuso brevior, sepalo dorsali synsepaloque ovatis acutis, petalis quattuor-filamentosis, labello late subcordato apice rotundato breviter inciso.

**TYPE:** Colombia: Dept. of Santander: Munic. of Virolín, alt. 1800 m, collected by E. Valencia, Oct. 1994, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 23 May 1995, *R. Escobar s.n.* (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr 17531.

**ETIMOLOGIA:** Del latín *octopus*, "con ocho patas", en referencia a los ocho segmentos de los pétalos.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Latin *octopus*, "with eight feet," referring to the eight segments of the petals.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 15-35 mm long, enclosed by 6-8 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with oblique ostia. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 14-15 mm long, 9-10 mm wide, the base cuneate, contracted into a petiole 2 mm long. **Inflo-**



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**rescence** a subsecund, congested, successively several-flowered raceme up to 6 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 7-9 mm long; floral bract muriculate, 1-1.25 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** light rosy brown with green margins, membranous, carinate-spiculate, minutely ciliate, widely spread, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acute lamina, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; **petals** orange, microscopically ciliate, forked into 4 filamentous segments ca. 3 mm long, the uppermost segment shortest, ca. 1.5 mm long; **lip** rose, microscopically ciliate, subcordate, with the apex broadly rounded, shortly incised, with the basal lobes encircling the column, 1.6 mm long, 1.4 mm wide, connate to the column near the apex; **column** slender, 2 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Esta especie del subgénero *Haplocheilus*, aparentemente endémica en la Cordillera Oriental de Colombia, es muy parecida a *L. alcicornis* Luer & R. Escobar de la Cordillera Central. *Lepanthes octopus* se distingue por las hojas elípticas en vez de ovado-acuminadas. Los sépalos laterales están connatos en un sinsépalo ovado, único en el subgénero. Como en *L. alcicornis*, los pétalos están divididos en cuatro segmentos, pero los de *L. octopus* son filamentosos. Como en muchas especies del subgénero, el labelo es anchamente cordato con un diminuto ápice inciso, ampliamente redondeado.

This species of subgenus *Haplocheilus*, apparently endemic in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia, is most similar to *L. alcicornis* Luer & R. Escobar from the Central Cordillera. *Lepanthes octopus* is distinguished by the elliptical leaves instead of ovate-acuminate. The lateral sepals are connate into an ovate synsepal, unique in the subgenus. As in *L. alcicornis*, the petals are divided into four segments, but those of *L. octopus* are filamentous. Similar to many species of the subgenus, the lip is broadly cordate with a broadly rounded, minutely incised apex.