

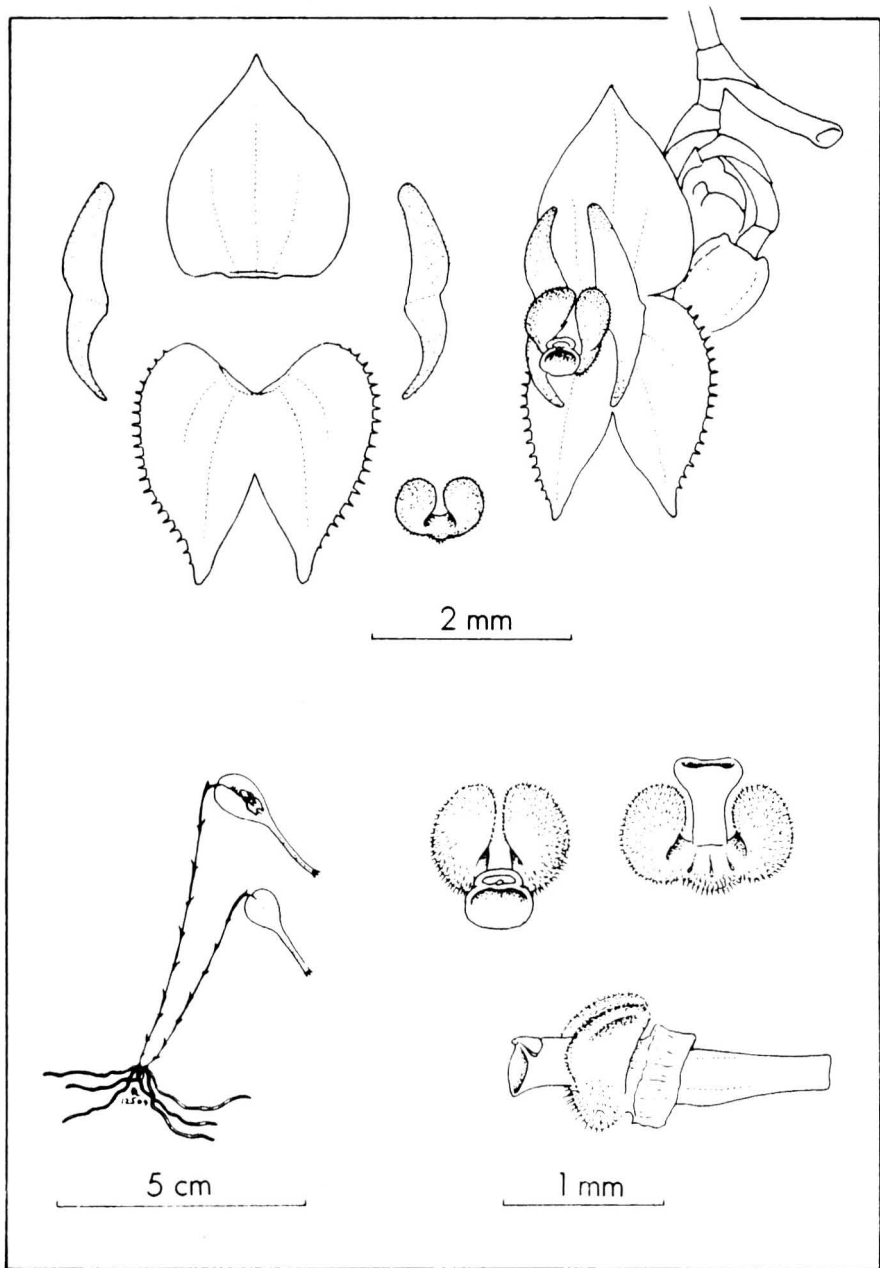
*Lepanthes opetidion* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva debilis caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio patenti ovato apice longissime attenuato brevior, sepalis ovatis subacutis lateralibus denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobatis, lobis anguste triangularibus obtusis, lobo inferiore angustiore incurvo. Labello transverse bilobato, lobis incrassatis ovatis columnam amplectentibus.

Plant small, weak, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, very slender, 5-6.5 cm long, enclosed by 10-15 tightly fitting, lepanthiform sheaths with microscopically ciliate ostia. Leaf spreading to deflexed, purple beneath, coriaceous, ovate, 22-27 mm long, 6-9 mm wide, the apex acute, linear-long-attenuate, longer than the ovate basal portion, tridentate, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 4 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 3-7 mm long; floral bracts smooth, 1 mm long; pedicels 1.75 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals yellow, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, 2.25 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals denticulate, ovate, oblique, subacute with the apices obtuse, 2.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide connate 0.75 mm; petals dark yellow, transversely bilobed, microscopically pubescent (cellular-glandular), 0.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the lobes narrowly triangular, obtuse, the lower lobe narrower, incurved; lip dark yellow, shortly pubescent, transversely bilobed, U-shaped, the lobes thickened, poorly developed into ovate laminae with rounded ends, embracing the column, 0.6 mm long, 1 mm wide expanded, the body between the lobes thick without an appendix; column 0.75 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

Etymology: From the Greek *opetidion*, "a small awl," in allusion to the shape of the leaf.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Nariño: Munic. of Ricaurte, collected in the cloud forest around La Planada, alt. 1800 m, flowered in



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cultivation at the La Planada Science Center, 25 Jan. 1987, C. Luer 12504 (Holotype: MO).

This delicate little species is recognized by the very slender ramicauls that bear a nearly pendent leaf with a long, narrow, apical portion longer than the ovate, basal portion; a very small, yellow flower with denticulate lateral sepals on top of the leaf; and a pubescent, bilobed lip without an appendix embracing the column.