

128. **LEPANTHES SCOPULIFERA** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva, ramicaulibus debilis gracillimis, inflorescentia racemosa densissime secunda longi-pedicellato folio angustissime ovato acuminato brevior, sepalis ovatis subacutis microscopicè denticulatis, petalis transversis bilobis, lobo superiore anguste oblongo quam lobo inferiore longiore, labelli laminis anguste ovatis apicibus ciliatis, connectivis late cuneatis, appendice parva transversa dense ciliata.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Antioquia: epiphytic in cloud forest north of the pass between Urrao and Carmen de Atrato, alt. 2500 m, 30 May 1995, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar, L. Moreno de Posada, B. López, F. López & G. Arteaga 17664 (Holotype: MO).

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *scopulifer*, "portando una pequeña brocha", en alusión al apéndice.

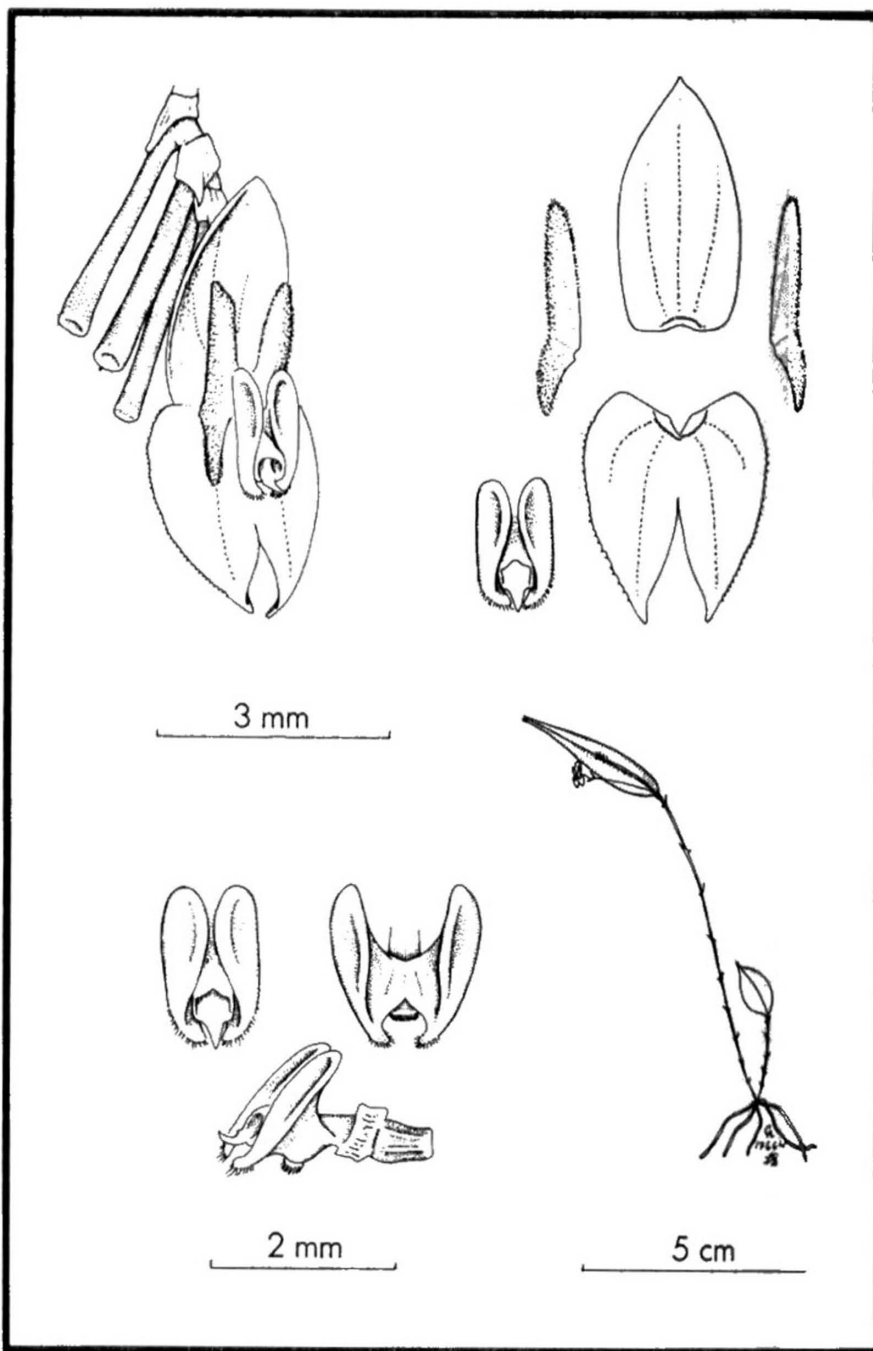
ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *scopulifer*, "bearing a little brush," referring to the appendix.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls very slender, weak, erect, 4.5-6.5 cm long, enclosed by 8-10 microscopically scabrous, tightly fitting, lepanthiform sheaths with acuminate apices. **Leaf** suberect, thinly coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, acuminate, 25-30 mm long, 5-6 mm wide, the base cuneate, contracted into a petiole less than 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, secund, long-pedicellate, successively several-flowered raceme up to 3 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 11-14 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary 0.6 mm long; **sepals** light brown, membranous, carinate, microscopically denticulate, widely spread, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, obtuse, 3.3 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, acute, 3 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, connate 1.3 mm; **petals** purple-brown, finely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.3 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, narrowly rounded at the tip, the lower lobe similar, shorter, oblique; **lip** purple-brown, bilaminar, the blades microscopically cellular or glabrous, narrowly elliptical-ovate, 1.6 mm long, with rounded ends, the apex minutely ciliate, the connectives cuneate, the body connate to the base of the column, the

sinus obtuse, with a small transverse, densely pubescent appendix; column 1 mm long, the anther dorsal and the stigma ventral.

Esta pequeña especie, aparentemente endémica en la Cordillera Occidental de Colombia, se parece a muchas otras con ramicales débiles, delgados y atestados racimos más cortos que las hojas acuminadas, angostamente ovadas. *Lepanthes scopulifera* se distingue de ellos por los racimos atestados, secundos, largamente pedicelados. Los sépalos son microscópicamente denticulados, mientras que los pétalos estrechamente oblongos, son finamente pubescentes. Las angostamente ovadas láminas del labelo no son notables, pero el apéndice es corto, ancho y densamente pubescente, parecido a una brocha diminuta.

This small species, apparently endemic in the Western Cordillera of Colombia, is similar to many other species with thin, weak ramicauls, and congested racemes shorter than narrowly ovate, acuminate leaves. From them *L. scopulifera* is distinguished by the very congested, secund, long-pedicellate raceme. The sepals are microscopically denticulate, while the narrowly oblong petals are finely pubescent. The narrowly ovate blades of the lip are not remarkable, but the appendix is short and broad, and densely pubescent, resembling a minute brush.



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