

fimbriato, appendice grandi oblonga cardinata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** slender, more or less horizontal, 7-14 cm long, enclosed by 6-10 dark brown, microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** spreading, erect in relation to the ramicaul, thinly coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, ovate, acute, acuminate, 4-5 cm long, 1.3-2 cm wide, with the base acuminate into a petiole 2-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 10 mm long borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 15-23 mm long; floral bracts muricate, 1.5-2 mm long; pedicels 1-2.5 mm long; ovary 2-5 mm long; **sepals** translucent pale green on the outer third, pale rose on the inner two-thirds, glabrous, carinate, with the margins cellular, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, shallowly concave near the apex, the lateral sepals triangular-ovate, subacute, oblique, 3.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, connate nearly 1 mm; **petals** orange, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1.25 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, with the lobes triangular, the acute apices lightly everted, the outer margin with a minute lobule between the lobes; **lip** deep red, microscopically cellular, bilaminar, with the blades thick, ovoid, with rounded ends, 1.5 mm long, connate above the middle with a well-demarcated, dark purple, fimbriated veil extending beyond the apex, with the connectives and body broad, thick, connate to the base of the column, the anterior margin of the body obtuse with a large, oblong, pubescent appendix broadly hinged in the middle; **column** 1.5 mm long, the anther apical and the stigma transverse, subapical.

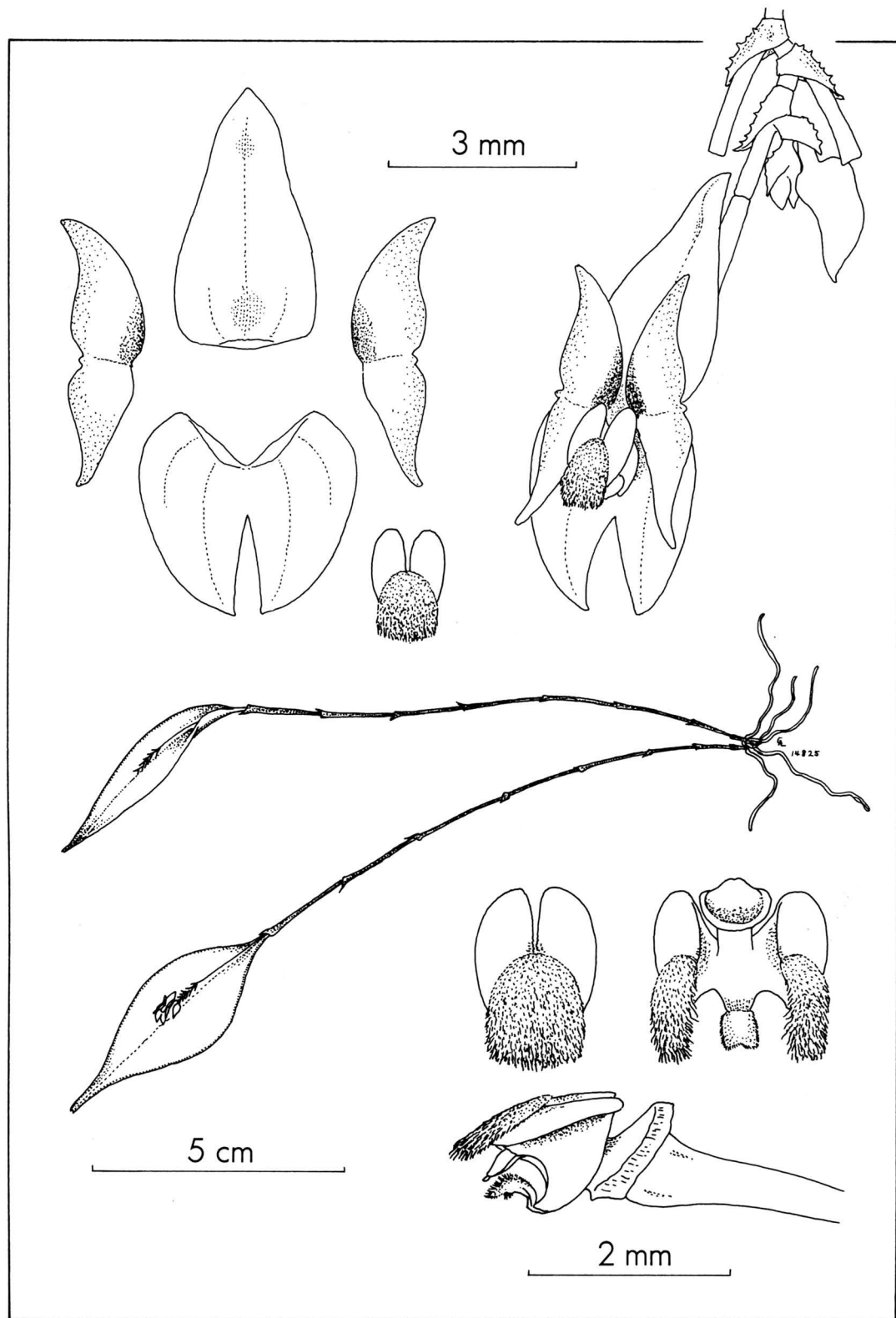
ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *velifer*, "veil-bearing," referring to the fimbriate, skirt-like structure of the lobes of the lip.

TYPE: GUATEMALA: Dept. of Baja Verapaz: Montaña El Quisis, Aldea El Carmen, alt. 1800 m, July 1990, collected by Ignacio Yat, flowered in cultivation by Otto Mittelstaedt at Vivero Alta Verapaz in Cobán, 26 Nov. 1990, *C. Luer* 14825 (Holotype: MO); flowered in cultivation by H. Ibañez in Cobán, *M. Behar* 66 (MO). Dept. of Alta Verapaz: Sacipec, alt. 1700 m, collected and cultivated by Oscar Archila in Cobán, 29 Nov. 1990, *C. Luer* 14875; without locality, collected by M. & M. Dix, flowered in cultivation 4 Dec. 1990, *C. Luer* 14678 (MO).

Vegetatively this species is distinguished by the slender ramicauls too weak to bear erect the weight of the acuminate leaves. The densely distichous raceme is borne on top of the leaf. The petals with pointed lobes are as large as or larger than the sepals. Most unusual is a well-defined, tangled, ovate mat of fimbriate hairs on the distal halves of the blades of the lip that are fused medially over the column. They must be torn apart to expose the column. The only

***Lepanthes velifera* Luer & Behar, sp. nov.**

Planta mediocris caespitosa, ramicaulibus tenuibus plus minusve horizontalibus, foliis ovatis acuminatis ad apicem et ad basim, inflorescentia disticha congesta folio brevior, sepalis ovatis petalis magnis transverse bilobis, lobis triangularibus acutis, labello bilamellato supra medium connatis cum velo



Lepanthes velifera Luer & Behar

other similar structure is that seen in the Ecuadorian *Lepanthes deformis* Luer & Hirtz. The column is short and stout with a transverse stigma.