

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

Inter species sectionis *Brachycladum* Rchb. f. species haec foliis breviter ciliatis, pedunculo brevi unifloro, sepalis ovatis acutis marginatis ciliatis supra basim libris, petalis nanis ovatis villosis, labello reniformi lobis basalibus columnam amplectentibus distinguitur.

Plant epiphytic, a pendent series, 30 cm or more long, of prolific, unifoliate, repent stems, each 3 - 4 mm long between leaves and enclosed by long-hispid, lepanthiform sheaths, rooting at nodes. Leaves prostrate, coriaceous, elliptical, 5 - 6 mm long, 5 mm wide, the margins shortly ciliate, the apex rounded, the base with a petiole less than 1 mm long. Inflorescence a single flower borne by a peduncle ca. 2 mm long from a node at the apex of a stem; floral bract 1 mm long, hispid, pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long, spiculate; sepals light yellow, sparsely pubescent externally, the margins rimmed and ciliate, free nearly to the base, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, 3.5 mm long, 2.3 mm wide, 3 - veined, the apex shortly acuminate, acute, hooked, the lateral sepals ovate, 3 mm long, 2.1 mm wide, oblique, acute; petals dark purple, ovate, 0.75 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, obtuse, villous, the base abruptly short-unguiculate; lip dark purple, cordate-reniform, 1.5 mm long, 2 mm wide expanded, the apex broadly rounded, the basal lobes rounded, erect, embracing the column; column cylindrical, 1 mm long, the anther and stigma apical, footless.

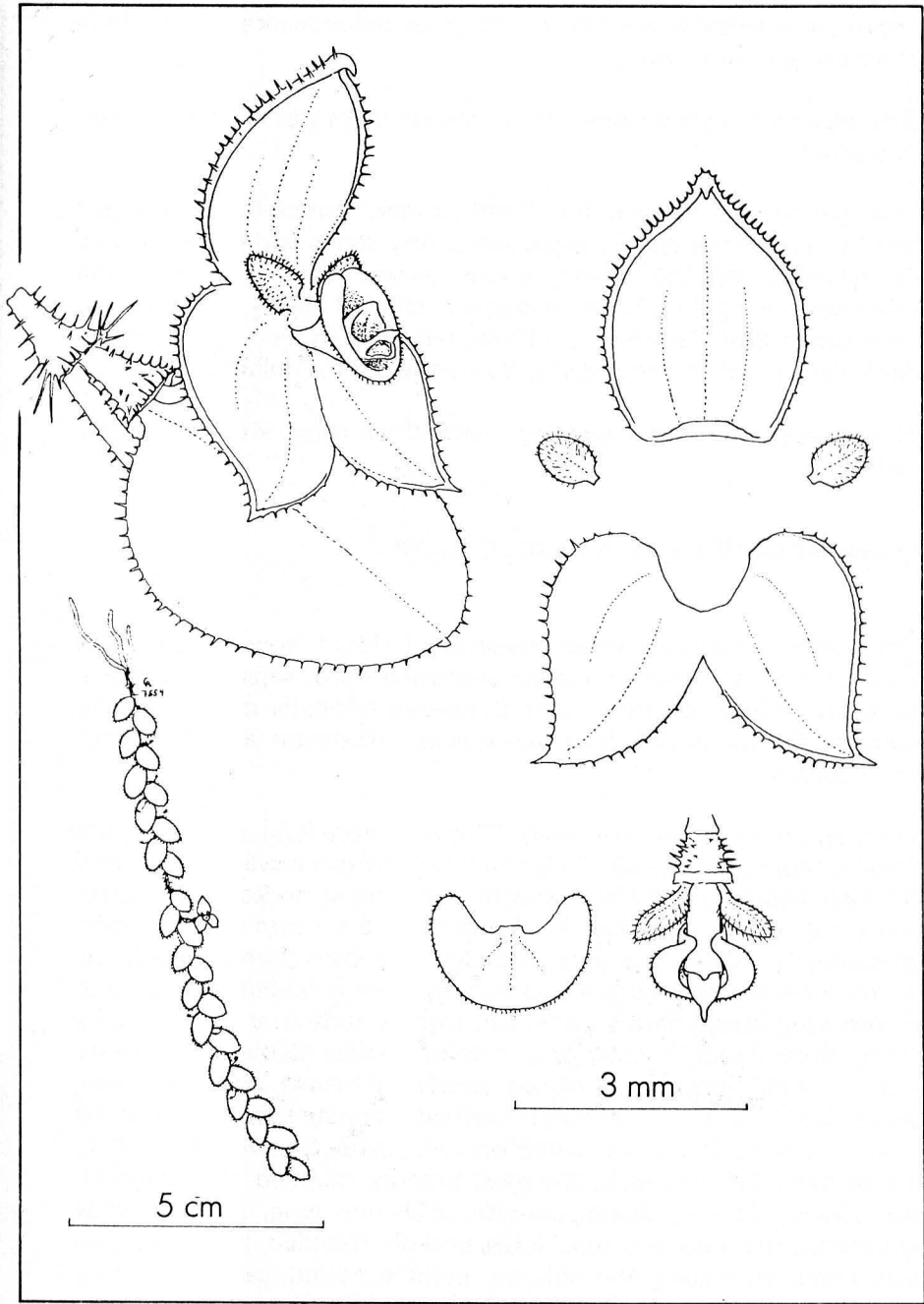
**ETIMOLOGIA:** Del latín *catella* (dim. de *catena*), "una pequeña cadena", en alusión a su hábito péndulo.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Latin *catella* (dim. of *catena*), "a little chain," in allusion to the pendent habit.

**TYPE:** COLOMBIA: Dept. of BOYACA: epiphytic in wet forest between Arcabuco and Moniquirá, alt. ca. 2500 m, 26 April 1982, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & D. Portillo 7554 (HOLOTYPE:SEL).

**DISTRIBUTION:** Colombia, Eastern Cordillera.

Este miembro de la sección *Brachycladae*, caracterizado por el hábito colgante de sus numerosos tallos y hojas apretadamente superpuestas, puede distinguirse por las hojas cortamente ciliadas; inflorescencias cortas unifloras; sépalos ciliados, marginados, amarillo claro, li-



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bres casi hasta su base; pétalos ovados, vilosos, minúsculos, púrpura oscuro; y un labelo reniforme con lados redondeados abrazando la columna, púrpura oscuro.

Esta especie fue encontrada creciendo con otros tres miembros de esta sección.

This member of the section *Brachycladae*, noted for its hanging habit of numerous closely superposed tiny stems and leaves, may be distinguished by the shortly ciliate leaves; short, single-flowered inflorescences; light yellow, margined, ciliated sepals free nearly to their bases; tiny, dark purple, villous, ovate petals; and a dark purple, reniform lip with the rounded sides embracing the column.

This species was found growing with three other members of this section.