

Lepanthes bufonis Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

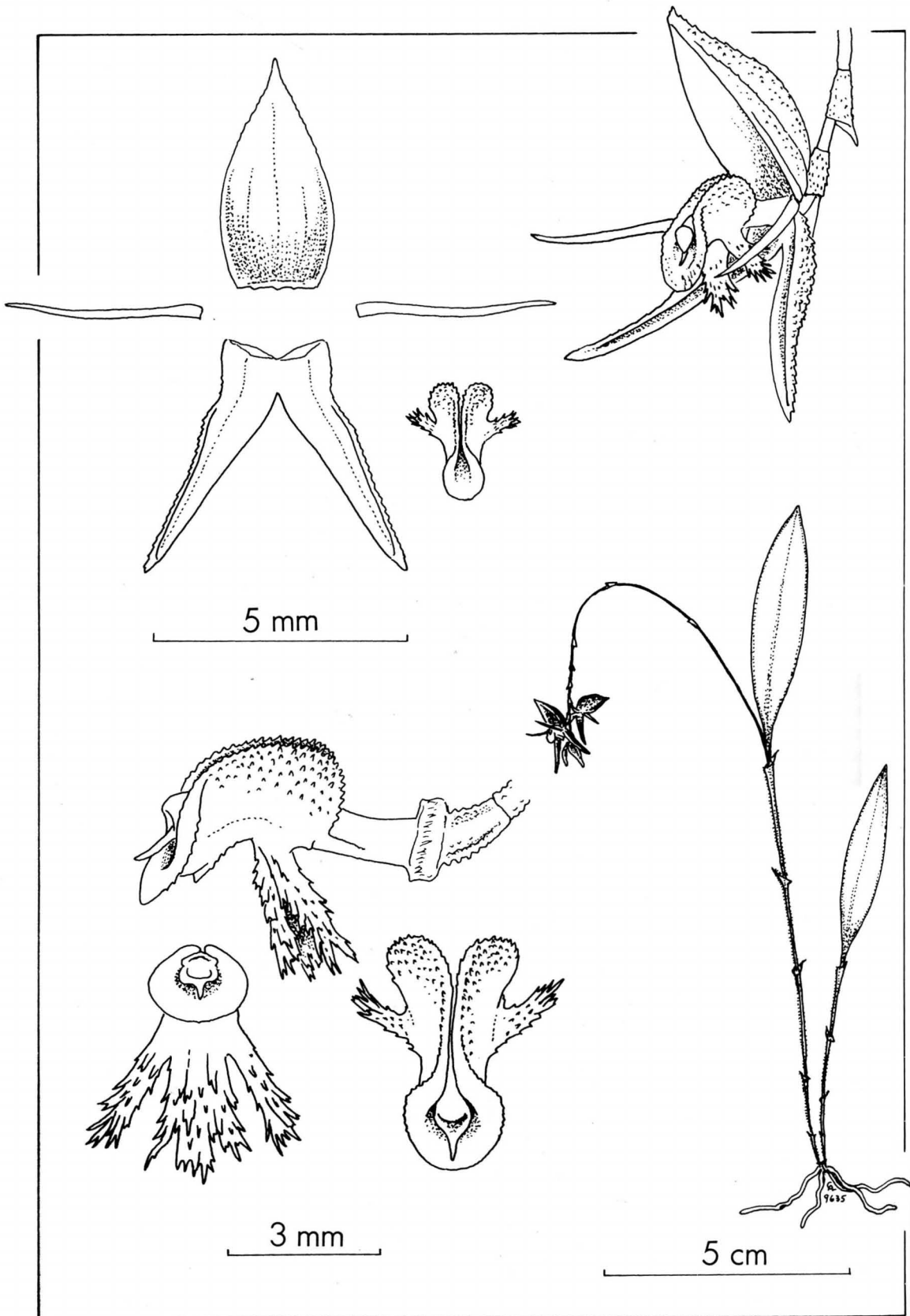
Planta mediocris caespitosa, racemo sublaxo erecto foliis anguste ellipticis brevioribus, sepalis crassis spiculatis sepalo dorsali libero, petalis carnis linearibus decurvatis verrucosis, labello crasso verrucoso bilobato lobis late rotundatis columnam gracilem amplectentibus.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect to horizontal, 2-10 cm long, enclosed by 4-7 pubescent, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect in relation to the ramicaul, coriaceous, purple beneath, narrowly elliptical, acute, 2.5-4 cm. long, 0.5-0.7 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2-4 mm long. Inflorescence a sublax, successively few-flowered raceme up to 2.5 cm long including the slender peduncle ca. 0.5 cm long, borne behind the leaf, 2 flowers often open simultaneously; floral bracts 2 mm long; pedicels 1-1.5 mm long; ovary shortly spiculate, 1 mm long; sepals fleshy, the dorsal sepal dull green, suffused with purple centrally, shortly pubescent-spiculate externally, ovate, concave, acute, 7 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, free from the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals dull purple with a green central stripe, triangular-ovate, acute, conduplicate with the crest of the fold high, erose, 8 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 2.5 mm; petals yellow-orange, fleshy, verrucose, narrowly linear, decurved, acute, 5 mm long, 0.75 mm wide; lip orange with red striae, fleshy, verrucose, broadly bilobed, cannot be expanded, 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex truncate, the lateral lobes thick, erect, broadly rounded, surrounding the column, connate to the column at the base; column slender, 3 mm long, the anther and rostellum apical, the stigma subapical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *bufonis*, "like a toad," referring to the warty appearance of the flower.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of Loja: epiphytic in cold, cloud forest above Jimbura, alt. 3150 m, 21 March 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höjjer & J. Kuijt 9632 (Holotype: MO); same area, alt. 2600 m, 21 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores & A. Embree 11993 (MO).

This species is similar to *L. aberrans* Schltr. and other members of the subgenus *Draconanthes* noted for their arching peduncles and pendent racemes, but *L. bufonis* is readily distinguished by the short, straight racemes. In addition, *L. bufonis* lacks any callus on the undersurface of the verrucose lip. In the other members of the subgenus, a prominent callus descends from the undersurface of the lip. All the known species of this subgenus occur at high altitudes in the Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia.



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