

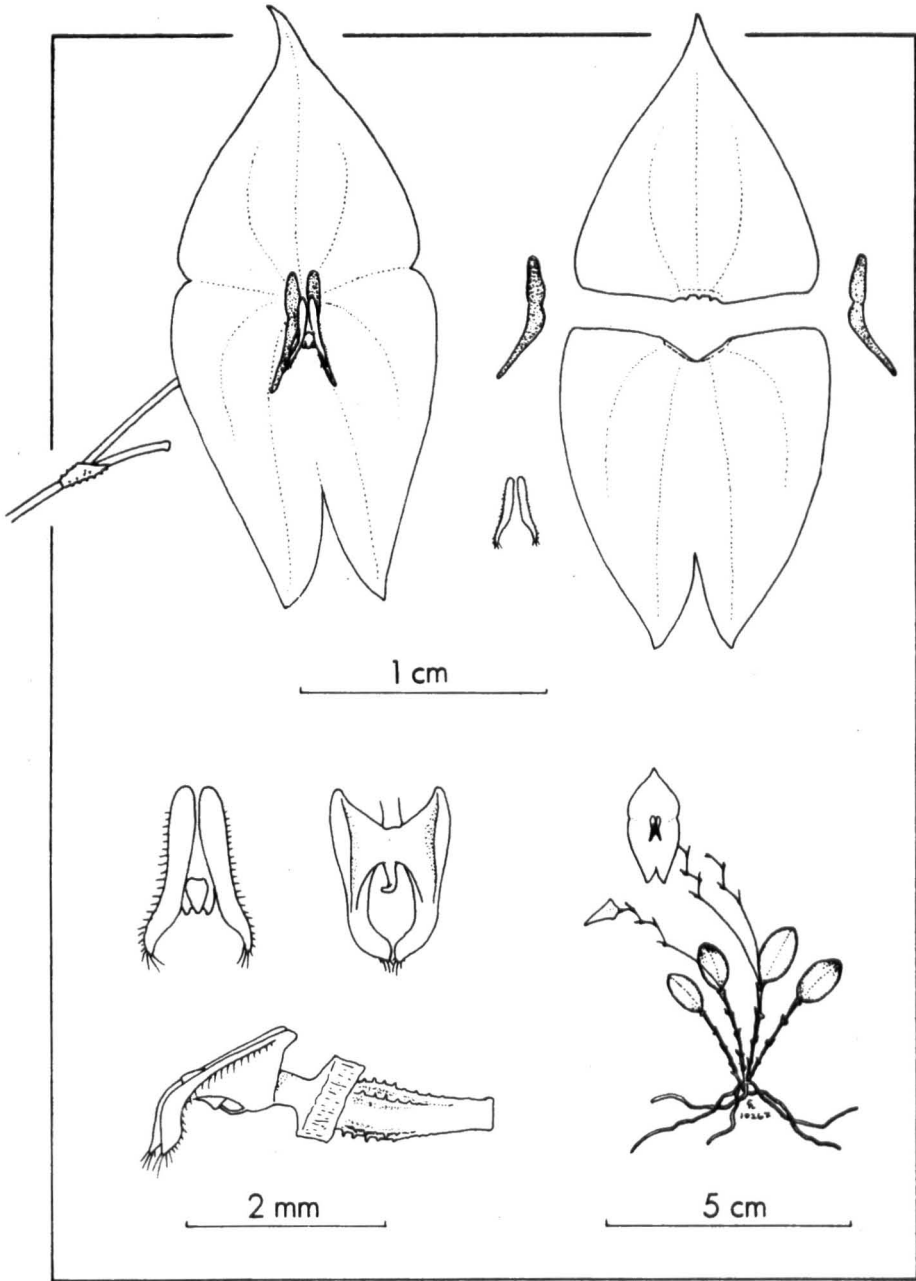


*Lepanthes amplior* Luer & Escobar  
Photograph: Rodrigo Escobar R.  
Grower: Colomborquídeas.

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

Planta parva, inflorescentia racemosa laxe pauciflora grandiflora folio elliptico longiore, sepalis late ovatis acutis integris, petalis parvis transverse bilobis pubescentibus, lobo superiore oblongo, lobo inferiore oblique angustissime triangulari acuto, labelli laminis anguste oblongis ciliatis, connectivis cuneatis, appendice anguste digitiformi.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1-2.5 cm long, enclosed by 4-6 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 9-12 mm long, 5-7 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1-2 mm long. Inflorescence a loose, flexuous, successively few-flowered raceme up to 4 cm long including the filiform peduncle 2-3 cm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2.5-3 mm long; ovary dentate-carinate, 2.5 mm



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long; sepals yellow-orange, entire, broadly ovate, subacute, slightly acuminate, carinate, the dorsal sepal 12 mm long, 9-10 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 4 mm to form a broadly expanded, flat flower, the lateral sepals with a central, red-brown stripe, oblique, 12 mm long, connate 7.5 mm, 11 mm wide together, each 2-veined; petals yellow, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.6 mm long, 5 mm wide, the upper lobe suboblong, obtuse, the lower lobe longer, oblique, narrowly triangular, acute; lip red-brown, bilaminate, the blades narrowly oblong, long-ciliate, the apices acute, the bases rounded, 2.75 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the column above the base, the appendix narrowly oblong, acute, incurved; column slender, 2.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *amplior*, "greater," referring to the large size of the flowers in comparison to the plant.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Norte de Santander: epiphytic in cloud forest near Alto de San Francisco above Villacaro, alt. 2850 m, 11 May 1984, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 10267 (Holotype: MO).

This species is notable for the extremely large flower produced by a very small plant. It is related to the Venezuelan *Lepanthes calocodon* Luer (in Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated as *Lepanthes capitanea* Rchb. f.), but the flowers of *L. amplior* are flat instead of concave. Also, it is similar to *L. costata* Rchb. f., but the sepals of *L. amplior* are larger and non-denticulate.