

132. **LEPANTHES AUSPICATA** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

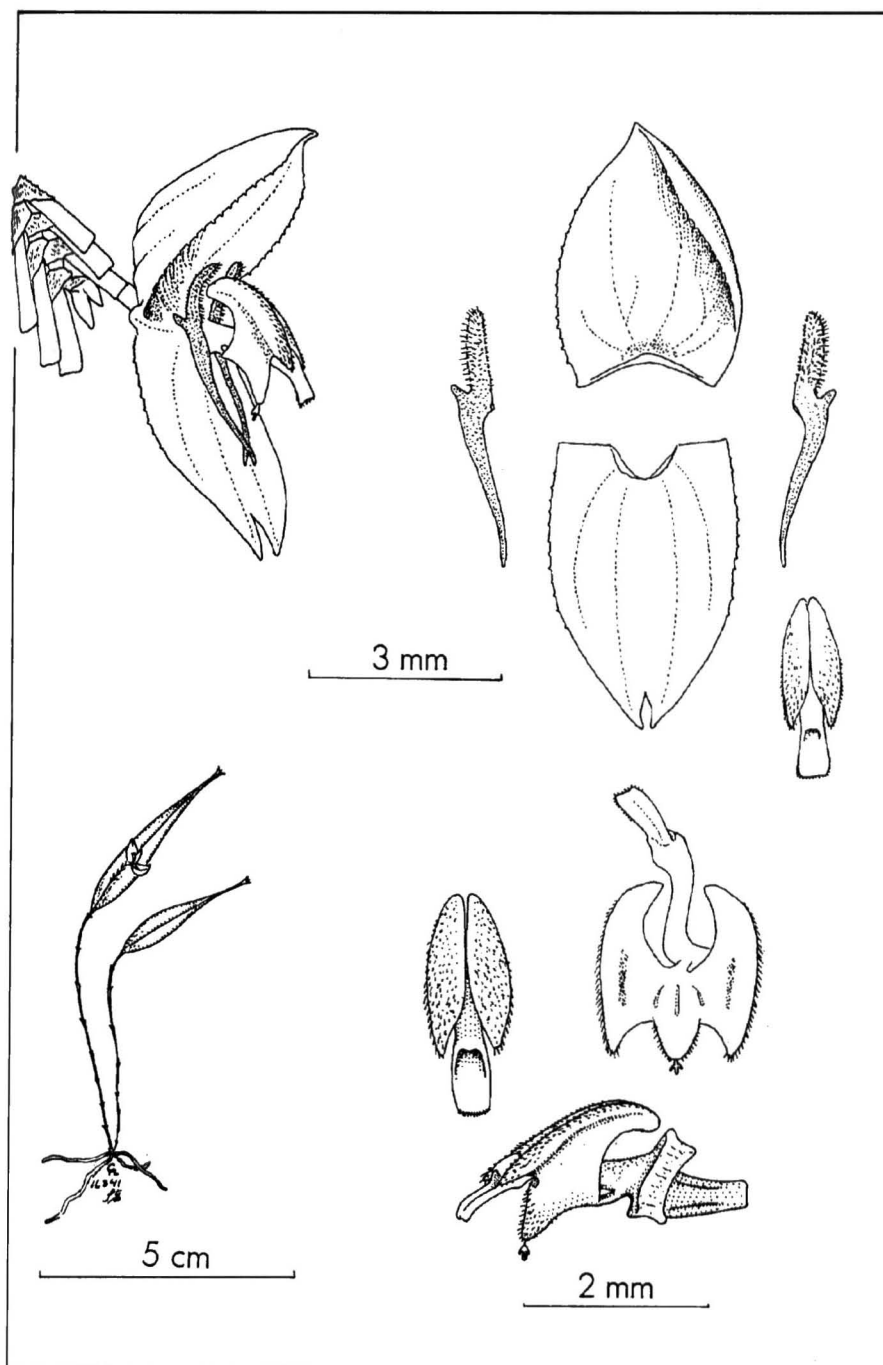
Planta parva debilis caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima disticha folio anguste ovato acuminato brevior, sepalis minutissime denticulatis, sepalo dorsali ovato concavo, sepalis in laminam ovatam minute bifidam connatis, petalis trilobis, lobo superiore oblongo villosa, lobo mediano parvo erecto, lobo inferiore longi-attenuato, labello bilaminato, laminis angustis ciliatis, connectivis latis crassis, corpore crasso protuberanti obtuso cum appendici minuta trifurcata pedunculata ad apicem.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Valle del Cauca: Munic. of El Cairo, Cerro del Inglés, Serranía de los Paraguas, epiphytic secondary forest, alt. 2260-2300 m, 3 Jan. 1987, *P. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, R. T. González, I. Cabrera, D. Garcés & A. Henao* 2909 (Holotype: CUVIC; Isotype: MO). Dept. of Chocó: Munic. of San José del Palmar, Alto de Los Galapagos, alt. 2050 m, 13 May 1993, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar, A. De Wilde & J. Gómez* 16806 (MO).

ETIMOLOGÍA: Del latín *auspicatus* (afortunado), en alusión a la afortunada conservación del apéndice.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *auspicatus*, "fortunate," referring to the fortunate retention of the appendix.

Plant small, weak, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, very slender, 2-4.5 cm long, enclosed by 5-8 microscopically cellular, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, cellular, narrowly ovate with revolute margins, with red-purple veins, the apex acute, long-acuminate, slightly dilated and trifurcate at the tip, 20-37 mm long, 5-7 mm wide, cuneate below into a subsessile base, the indistinct petiole ca. 0.25 mm long. **Inflorescence** a very dense, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a slender peduncle 5-8 mm long; floral bracts lightly muricate, less than 1.5 mm long; pedicels 2-2.5 mm long; ovary less than 1 mm long; **sepals** membranous, subcarinate, glabrous, with minutely denticulate margins, the dorsal sepal orange, suffused with red-violet centrally, ovate, concave, with the apex obtuse, shortly acuminate, 3.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide expanded, 3-veined with a few incomplete accessory veins, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals whitish, connate to near the apex into an ovate, obtuse, minutely bifid lamina with the tips acute, 4 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** red-violet, trifid, 0.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, obtuse, villous, the middle lobe small, erect, on the outer margin opposite the base, the lower lobe microscopically pubescent, narrowly triangular, long-attenuate;



132. **LEPANTHES AUSPICATA** Luer & R. Escobar

lip red-violet, bilaminate, the blades narrowly elliptical, ciliate, 2 mm long, the connectives thick, broadly cuneate, the body thick, pubescent, protuberant, obtuse, connate to the base of the column, the appendix minute, trifid, pedunculate, arising from the protuberant tip of the body; **column** slender, terete, 2 mm long, the anther dorsal above a long rostellar flap, the stigma apical.

Esta pequeña especie se distingue por las hojas angostamente ovadas, largamente acuminadas, que llevan en el haz un denso racimo de flores sucesivas. El sépalo dorsal es ovado, cóncavo. Los pétalos son trilobulados, con el lóbulo superior oblongo, viloso, el del medio pequeño y situado en el borde exterior, y el lóbulo inferior largamente acuminado. El labelo se parece al de *Lepanthes acrogenia* Luer & R. Escobar, con un cuerpo protuberante, romo, grueso, debajo de la laminilla rostellar. Un minúsculo apéndice trifido, pedunculado, se encuentra ligeramente unido a la parte superior del protuberante cuerpo. Semejante apéndice no se vio en *L. acrogenia*, por lo que se plantea el interrogante de si se le habría caído o no un apéndice similar, extremadamente vulnerable.

This small species is distinguished by the weak with narrowly ovate, long-acuminate leaves with the congested raceme of successive flowers borne on top. The dorsal sepal is ovate and concave. The petals are trilobed with the upper lobe oblong and villous, the middle lobe small on the outer margin, and the lower lobe long-acuminate. The lip is similar to that of *Lepanthes acrogenia* Luer & Escobar with a thick, blunt, protuberant body beneath the rostellar flap. A minute, pedunculated, trifid appendix is loosely attached to the summit of the protuberant body. No such appendix was seen in *L. acrogenia*. The question arises whether or not a similar, extremely vulnerable appendix could have been lost from the latter.