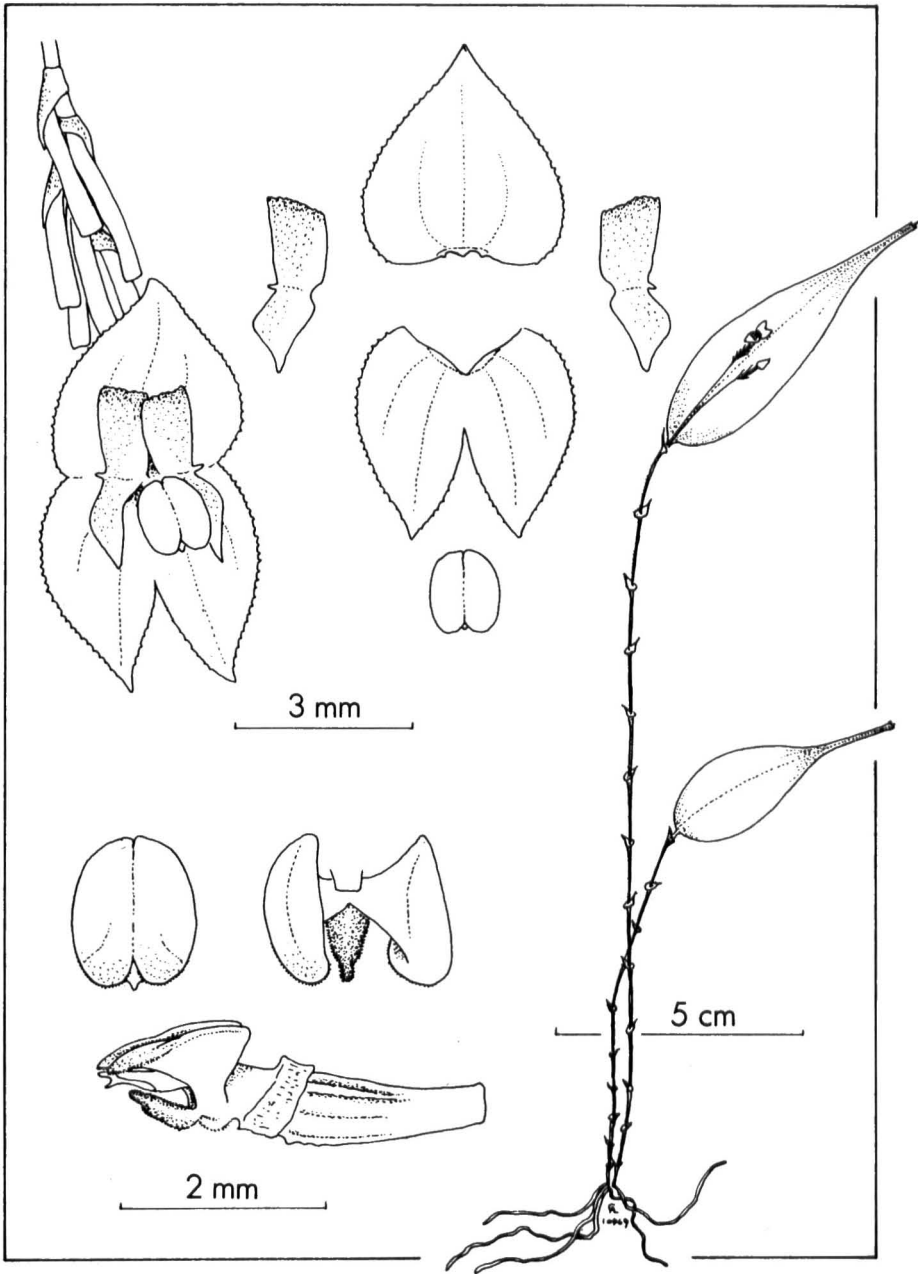


*Lepanthes cactoura* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris vel grandis, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima folio anguste ovato longiacuminato brevioris, sepalis late ovatis minute denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobis cum lobo laterali minuto, lobo superiore oblongo truncato minute eroso, lobo inferiore triangulari acuto cum angulo laterali obtuso, labelli laminis semiorbicularibus tenuibus agglutinatis,



*Lepanthes cactoura* Luer & Escobar

connectivis late cuneatis, corpore angusto, appendice crassa tereti pubescenti cum segmento apicali parvo.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fine. Ramicauls slender, erect, 6-20 cm long, enclosed by 10-15 minutely ciliate, long-acuminate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, more or less reticulate, narrowly ovate, with the apex acute, acuminate, 5-7 cm long, 1.5-2.2 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested, successively many-flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne on the dorsum of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 15-25 mm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 4 mm long, ovary lightly crested, 2 mm long; sepals translucent white, minutely denticulate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, 3.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 3.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, connate 1 mm, each 2-veined; petals cream with brown tips and red-brown inner margin, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3 mm wide, with a minute process on the lateral margin near the middle, the upper lobe suboblong, truncate, the upper edge more or less minutely erose, the lower lobe triangular, acute, obtusely angled on the outer margin, shorter than the upper lobe; lip red-brown with a white stripe on each side, bilaminar, the blades thin, microscopically pubescent, semiorbicular with rounded apices and obtuse bases, 1.4 mm long, adherent over the column, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body narrow, connate to the column at the base, the appendix thick, pubescent, terete to subconical, with a small, similar, apical segment; column slender, 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek *kaktos* and *-oura*, "a cactus-like tail," referring to the thick, cylindrical, pubescent appendix.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Mesopotamia, epiphytic in cloud forest between La Unión and Sonsón, alt. 2400 m, collected by L. de Posada, C. Head & F. Lopez, 25 Aug. 1984, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas 26 Aug. 1984, *R. Escobar* 3399 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 10469.

This species is another of several that seem closely related to *Lepanthes agglutinata* Luer with thin blades of the lip adherent over the column. *Lepanthes cactoura* however, is distinguished by the minute middle lobules of the petals; broad connectives of the lip instead of very narrow supporting the blades above the middle; and a large, thick, cylindrical, pubescent appendix.