

suffused with purple beneath, slightly convex, broadly elliptical to suborbicular, obtuse, 11–22 mm long, 10–15 mm wide, the base broadly cuneate, contracted into a petiole 1.5–2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 3–7 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 3–10 mm long; floral bracts 1–1.5 mm long, muriculate; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5–2 mm long; **sepals** dull white to pale yellow-green, more or less lightly suffused with purple along the midvein, ovate, carinate, subacute, with margins entire, the dorsal sepal 2.75–3.5 mm long, 2–2.2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 2.5–3 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, connate 0.5–1 mm; **petals** yellow or orange with purple margins, transversely bilobed, microscopically pubescent, 1 mm long, 3.5–3.75 mm wide, 3-veined, the lobes obliquely triangular, obtuse, the upper lobe larger; **lip** red to purple, bilaminar, the blades microscopically pubescent, elliptical-ovate, slightly concave, 1.25 mm long, the bases obtuse, the apices narrowly obtuse, the connectives short, broadly cuneate, connate to the base of the column, the body thickened with the sinus obtuse, the appendix short, thick, ovoid, long-pubescent; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma subapical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *candidus*, “white,” referring to the basic color of the sepals.

PARATYPES: COSTA RICA. Cartago: heights above El Tejar, alt. 4500 ft., ca. 1867, A. Endres s.n. (W). Alajuela: San Ramón, Portillo Prungas, alt. 5000 ft., rainy season, 1867, A. Endres 33, sketch 221, 228 (W). San José: San Cristóbal, alt. 1800 m, 22 June 1981, C. Luer & A. Luer 6385 (SEL); Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo, Zurquí Station, alt. 1680 m, 30 Oct. 1990, S. Ingram & K. Ferrell-Ingram 656 (CR, SEL). Without collection data, ca. 1867, A. Endres 50, 654, sketch 227 (W).

This species, relatively frequent in the central valley, was described and illustrated in the nineteenth century by Endres with the intended name *L. candida*. Another collection was illustrated with the intended name *L. muelleriana*.

Most closely resembling *L. confusa* Ames & C. Schweinf., *L. candida* is distinguished by the small habit with broadly elliptical leaves, and a short, distichous raceme that reaches to about the middle of the leaf. The whitish, subacute sepals,

Lepanthes candida Endres ex Luer, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: COSTA RICA. Cartago: epiphytic in forest above San Cristóbal Norte, alt. 1680 m, 26 Mar. 1995, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Dressler, K. Dressler & Dora Mora de Retana 17476 (Holotype: CR; Isotype: MO). Fig. 3.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia congesta disticha foliis late ellipticis leviter convexis brevioribus, sepalis ovatis subacutis, petalorum magnorum lobis triangularibus, labelli laminis ellipticis appendice proportione grandi brevi crassa longipubescenti.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1–4.5 cm long, enclosed by 3–8 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with oblique ostia. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous,

about 3 mm long, are entire. The microscopically pubescent petals are proportionately large, considerably more so in some specimens. The lobes are more or less triangular and obtuse or narrowly obtuse. The blades of the lip are elliptical or ovate and microscopically pubescent, and borne to either side of the column by short, broadly cuneate connectives. The body is thick with a short, thick, oblong, long-pubescent appendix. In the lateral view, all collections of this species appear similar with the thick, densely pubescent appendix extending forward beneath the stigma.

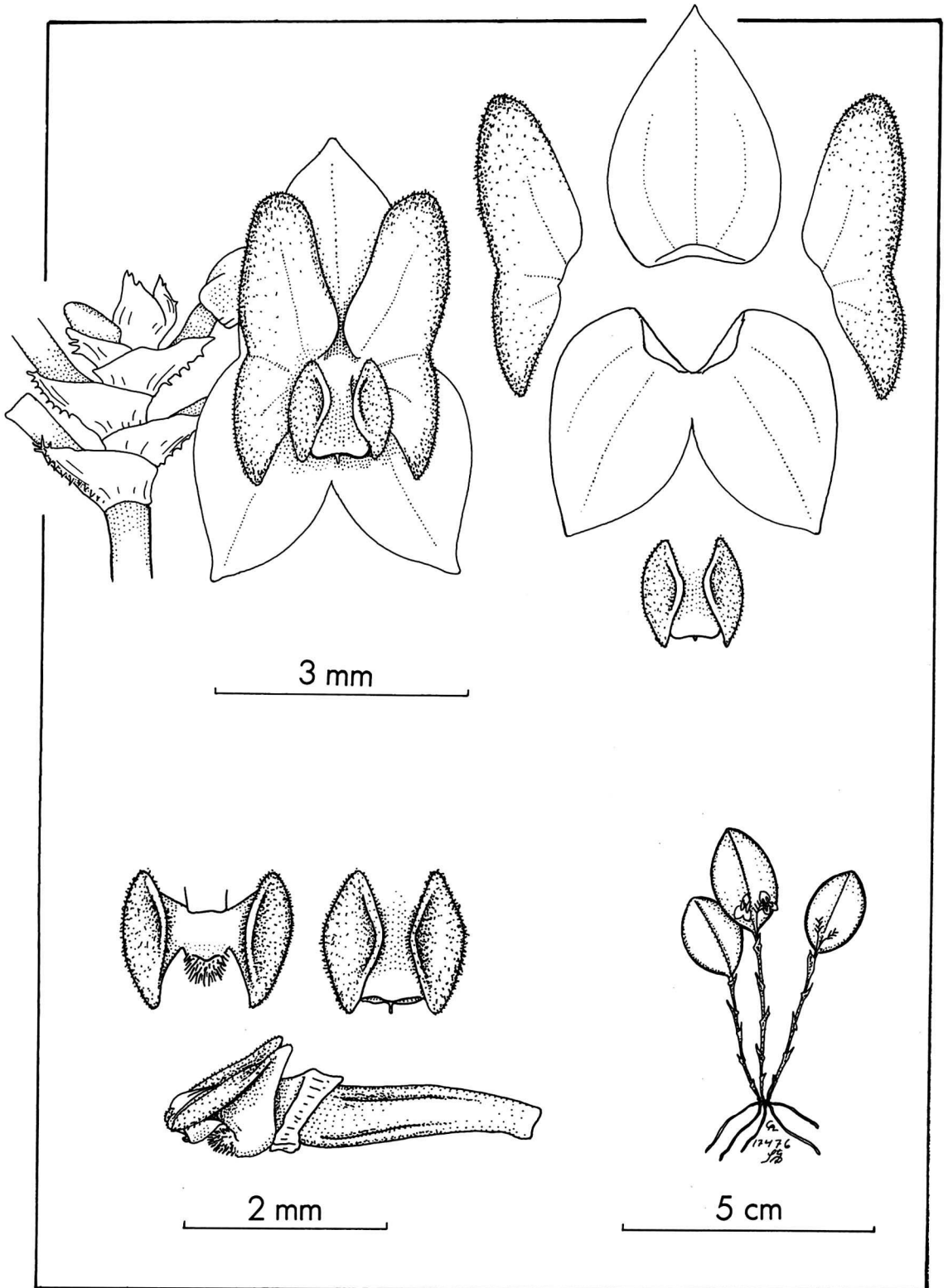


Fig. 3. *Lepanthes candida* Endres ex Luer.