

Lepanthes chimaera Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta grandis, caulibus secundariis robustis prolificis, racemo plurifloro folio ovato brevior, floribus grandibus, sepalis longi-acu-

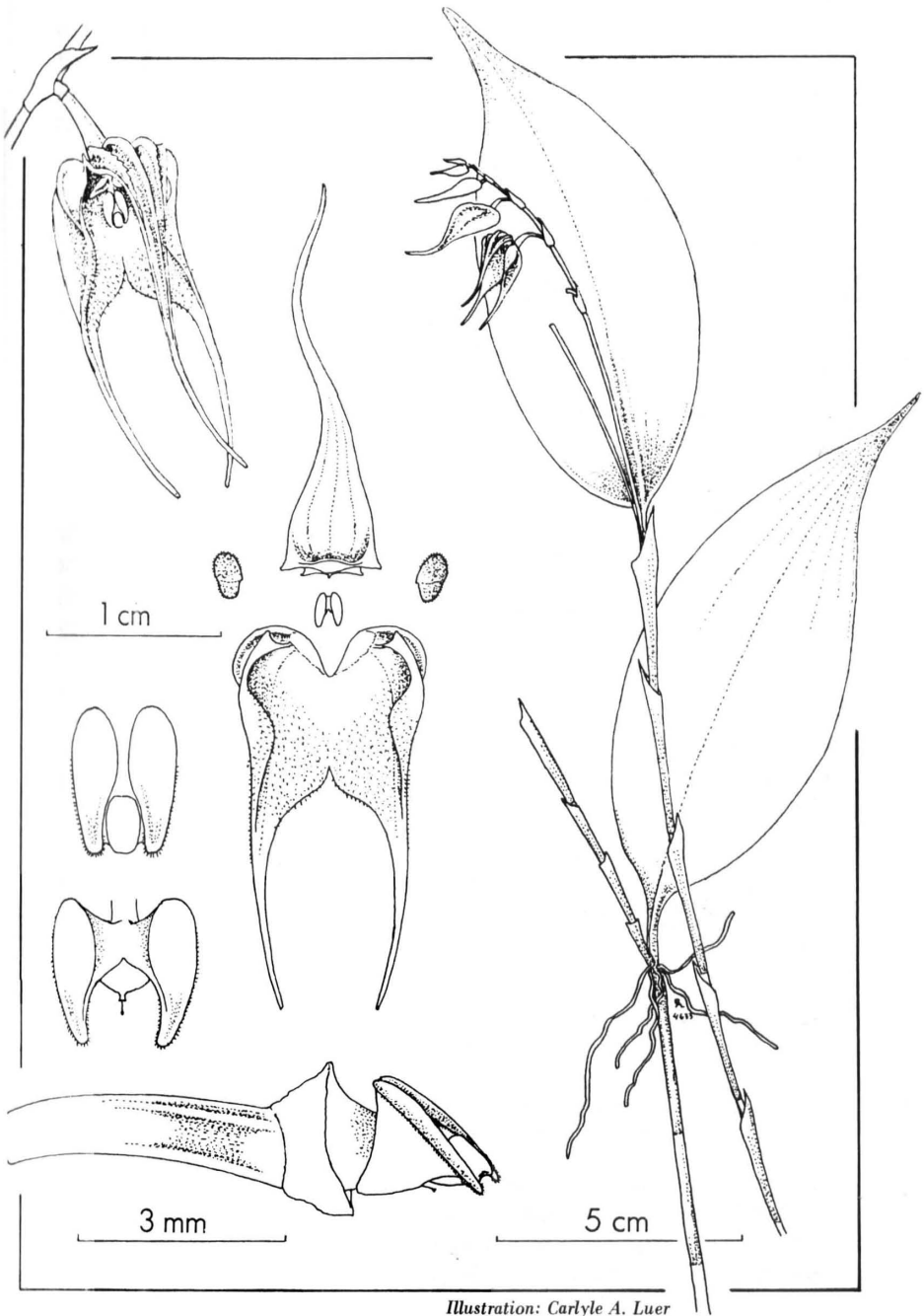


Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

Lepanthes chimaera

minatis carinatis basi concavis, petalis nanis, labelli laminis ovatis, appendice microscopica capillari.

Plant large and robust, epiphytic, caespitose to scandent; roots coarse. Secondary stems stout, erect, 20-36 cm tall, proliferating other secondary stems from the apex, enclosed by 11-14 microscopically scabrous lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, ovate, 11-14 cm long, 3.5-5.5 cm wide, the apex acute, acuminate, the base rounded, contracted into a petiole ca. 1 cm long. Inflorescence a distichous, subdensely several-flowered raceme up to 3.5 cm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 3-5 cm long, 2-3 large flowers produced simultaneously; floral bracts 3-5 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; sepals red to yellow, carinate, the dorsal sepal minutely denticulate, trinagular, concave basally, acute, long-acuminate, 20 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals pubescent, ovate, oblique, concave basally, connate 5 mm, the apices acute, attenuate, 19 mm long, 10 mm wide together; petals small, yellow, suffused with red marginally, minutely pubescent, transversely elliptical, 1.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the lobes subequal, rounded; lip red, the blades ovate, 1.75 mm long, the apices narrowly obtuse, microscopically ciliate, the bases rounded, the connectives short, broadly cuneate, connate to the base of the column, the appendix a microscopic, capillary process; column stout, 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for Chimaera, the mythological, fire-breathing monster.

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada por Chimaera, el monstruo mitológico cuyo aliento era de fuego.

TYPE: *COLOMBIA*: NARIÑO. epiphytic in cloud forest near La Victoria, alt. 3.200 m, 4 Nov. 1979, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 4633* (Holotype: SEL); same area, 22 Feb. 1978, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 2720* (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Colombia.

This robust, prolific species is easily identified by the large flowers produced on a raceme shorter than the leaf. The sepals are long-attenuate, carinate, and concave basally, creating a grotesque appearance uncommon in *Lepanthes*.

Esta robusta y prolífica especie es fácilmente identificable por las grandes flores producidas en racimos más cortos que las hojas. Los sépalos son largamente atenuados, carinados, y basalmente cóncavos, creando una apariencia grotesca poco común en *Lepanthes*.