

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *circularis*, "circular," in reference to the leaves.

This small species is known by a single collection apparently by Endres around 1867, but neither illustration nor description is present among his collections. *Lepanthes circularis* is characterized by the little round leaves and short, congested racemes. The sepals are broadly ovate, obtuse and entire. The transverse petals are distinguished by minute lower lobes about 0.2 mm long and broad. Other species with extremely small lower lobes include *L. inaequiloba* Ames & C. Schweinf., *L. reflexa*, described below, and *L. subdimidiata* Ames & C. Schweinf. The blades of the lip are oblong with broad connectives and a minute, external appendix.

Lepanthes circularis Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Cartago: heights above El Tejar, alt. 4500 ft., ca. 1867, A. Endres *s.n.* (Holotype: W). Fig. 4.

Planta parva, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio circulari brevior, sepalis ovatis obtusis, petalis parvis transverse anguste oblongis lobo inferiore minuto subcirculari, labelli laminis oblongis columna longioribus.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls comparatively stout, erect, 1–2.5 cm long, enclosed by 4–5 closely fitting, blackish, lepanthiform sheaths with shortly ciliate ribs and ostia. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, circular, with the apex broadly obtuse to round, 10 mm long, 10 mm wide to 17 mm long, 15 mm wide, the base rounded, contracted into a twisted petiole 2 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 4 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 6–7 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long, muricate; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** yellowish, violet-purple along the midrib, glabrous, subcarinate, entire, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, 3.3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, obtuse, 3.5 mm long, 2.2 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** yellow with all margins violet, transversely bilobed, the upper lobe narrowly oblong, narrowly obtuse, 2 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the lower lobe minute, semicircular, 0.2 mm long, 0.2 mm wide; **lip** violet purple, bilaminate, the blades oblong, obtuse to rounded at the ends, 1.5 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse with the appendix external, minute, prostrate; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the anther dorsal and the stigma subapical.

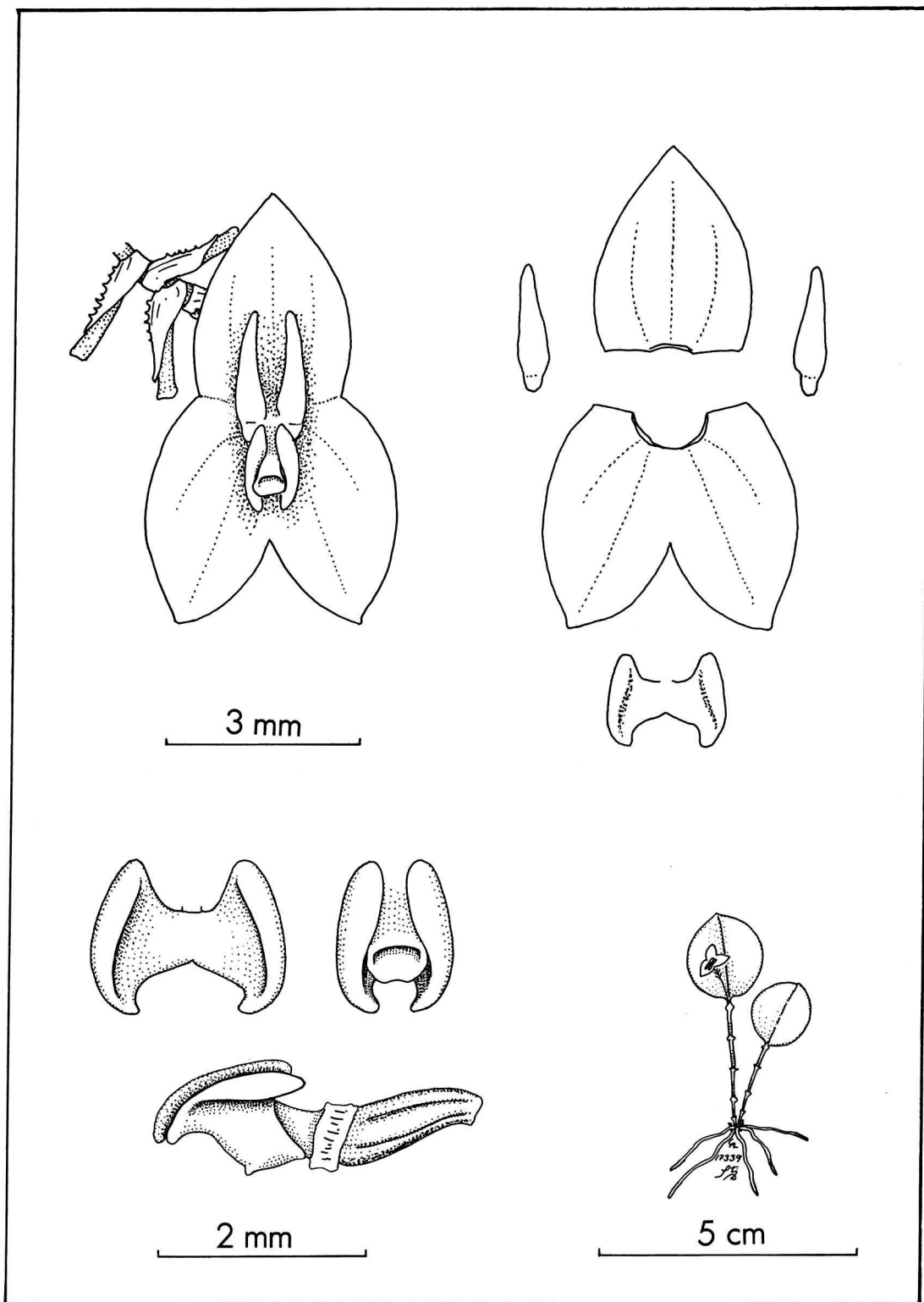


Fig. 4. *Lepanthes circularis* Luer.