

***Lepanthes cloesii* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for Patrick Cloes of Hasselt, Belgium, who collected this species.

Species haec *L. nautilus* Luer & Escobar similis, sed petalorum lobis elongatis negris et appendice anguste elongata differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 4-6.5 cm long, enclosed by 6-8 long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, suffused with purple beneath, broadly elliptical, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 3-5 cm long, 1.5-2 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate into a petiole 0.5 mm long. Inflorescence a distantly and successively several-flowered raceme, up to 10 cm long, borne far beyond the leaf by a slender peduncle 8-9 cm long; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicels 5-7 mm long; ovary carinate, 2 mm long; sepals dull white, suffused with purple-brown below the margins, glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal concave, triangular, acute, acuminate, 20 mm long, 11 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 5 mm, the lateral sepals obliquely triangular, acute, attenuate, 21 mm long, 6 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 8 mm in a concave lamina; petals transversely bilobed, black, densely cellular-glandular, 1 mm long, 8 mm wide, the lobes oblong, obtuse, with revolute margins, the upper lobe 6.5 mm long, curved forward, much longer than the lower lobe; lip purple-black, bilaminiate, the blades pubescent, convex, oblong with rounded ends, 2 mm long, covering the end of the column, the connectives short, cuneate, from near the base, the body connate to the shaft of the column near the middle, the appendix narrowly elongate, in contact with a forked process within the stigmatic cavity; column stout, 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

PERU: Huánuco: Carpish Mountains, alt. 2800 m, 1997, flowered in cultivation in Hasselt, Belgium, by P. Cloes 980-929 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19060.

This Peruvian species of series *Elongatae* subsection *Lepanthes* is similar to the Colombian *L. nautilus*. Both species are characterized by broadly elliptical, obtuse leaves far surpassed by a loose raceme of large, concave flowers with acuminate, tail-like apices of the sepals. The upper lobes of the black petals of *L. cloesii* are elongate, narrow and curved forward to protrude from the sepaline cavity. The blades of the lip are pubescent, oblong and convex. They cover the column above the middle because the short connectives are connate to the column near the middle. The slender appendix is in contact with a forked process within the stigmatic cavity.

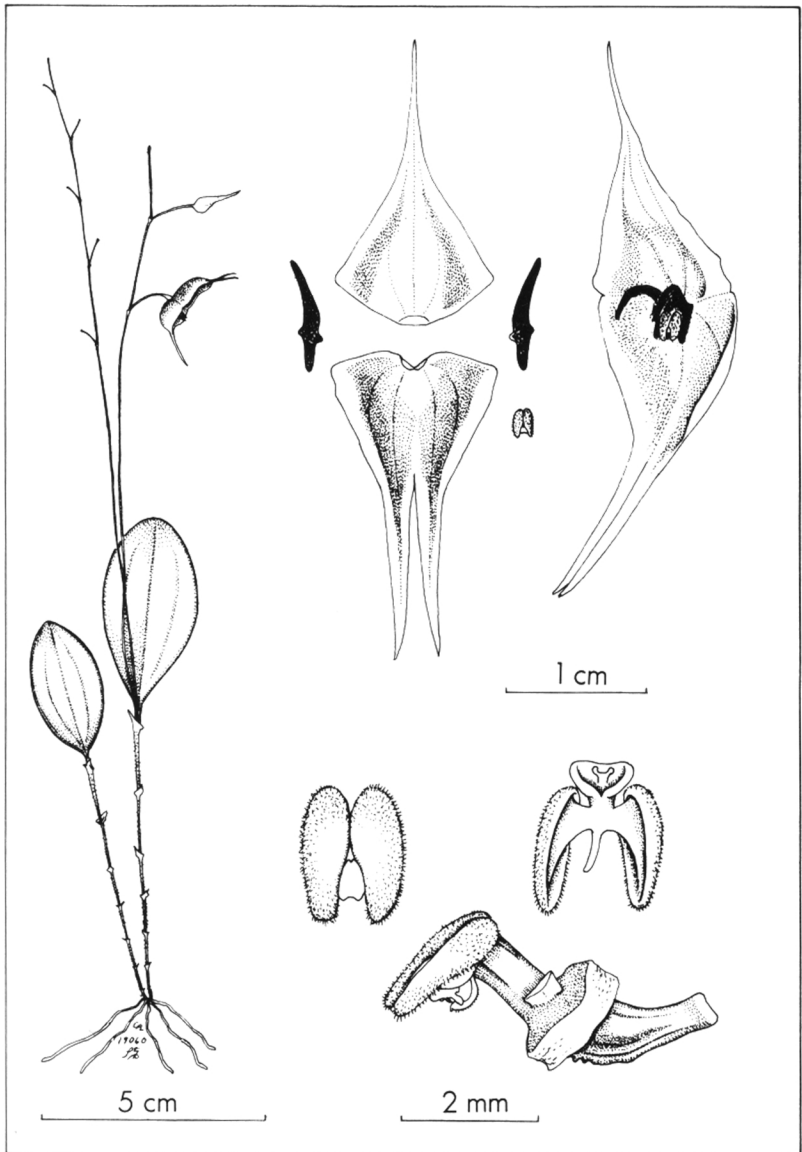


Fig. 14a. *Lepanthes cloesii*