

Lepanthes cocculifera Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, inflorescentia folio anguste ovato acuminato brevior, racemo disticho congesto, sepalis ovatis, petalis bilobis lobo inferiore multiminore, labelli lamina anguste ovatis, appendice minutissime bilobulata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems stout, erect, 4-9 cm long, enclosed by 5-10 coarsely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, acuminate, apiculate, 4-6.5 cm long including the 3 mm long petiole, 1.5-2.2 cm wide, the rounded base contracted into the petiole. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 20 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle up to 20 mm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals light yellow, glabrous, ovate, acute, the dorsal sepal 5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, connate 1 mm to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals connate 2 mm, 5.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide together; petals yellow, suffused with purple toward the base, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobe more or less obliquely ovate or falcate, acuminate, the lower lobe much smaller, 0.5 mm long, broadly triangular, obtuse; lip deep orange-brown, microscopically pubescent, the blades narrowly ovate, 2 mm long, with obtuse ends, the apices ciliate, the connectives cuneate, connate to the base of the column, the appendix small, transverse, with a pair of minute, apical lobules; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *coccus*, "a spherical bacterium," hence, cocculifer, "bearing minute cocci," referring to the tiny lobules at the apex of the appendix.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *coccus*, "un bacterio esférico", de donde, cocculifer, "que lleva diminutos cocos", refiriéndose a los pequeñitos lóbulos en el ápice del apéndice.

TYPE: COLOMBIA: SANTANDER DEL SUR: epiphytic in cloud forest between Santa Barbara and Guaca, alt. 2.850 m, 14 May 1982, C. Luer & R. Escobar 7866 (Holotype: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Colombia, Eastern Cordillera.

This species is distinguished by the relatively robust, coarsely ciliate lepanthiform stems; a short, congested raceme, ovate sepals; a much reduced lower lobe of the petals; and an appendix of the lip with a minute pair of terminal lobules.

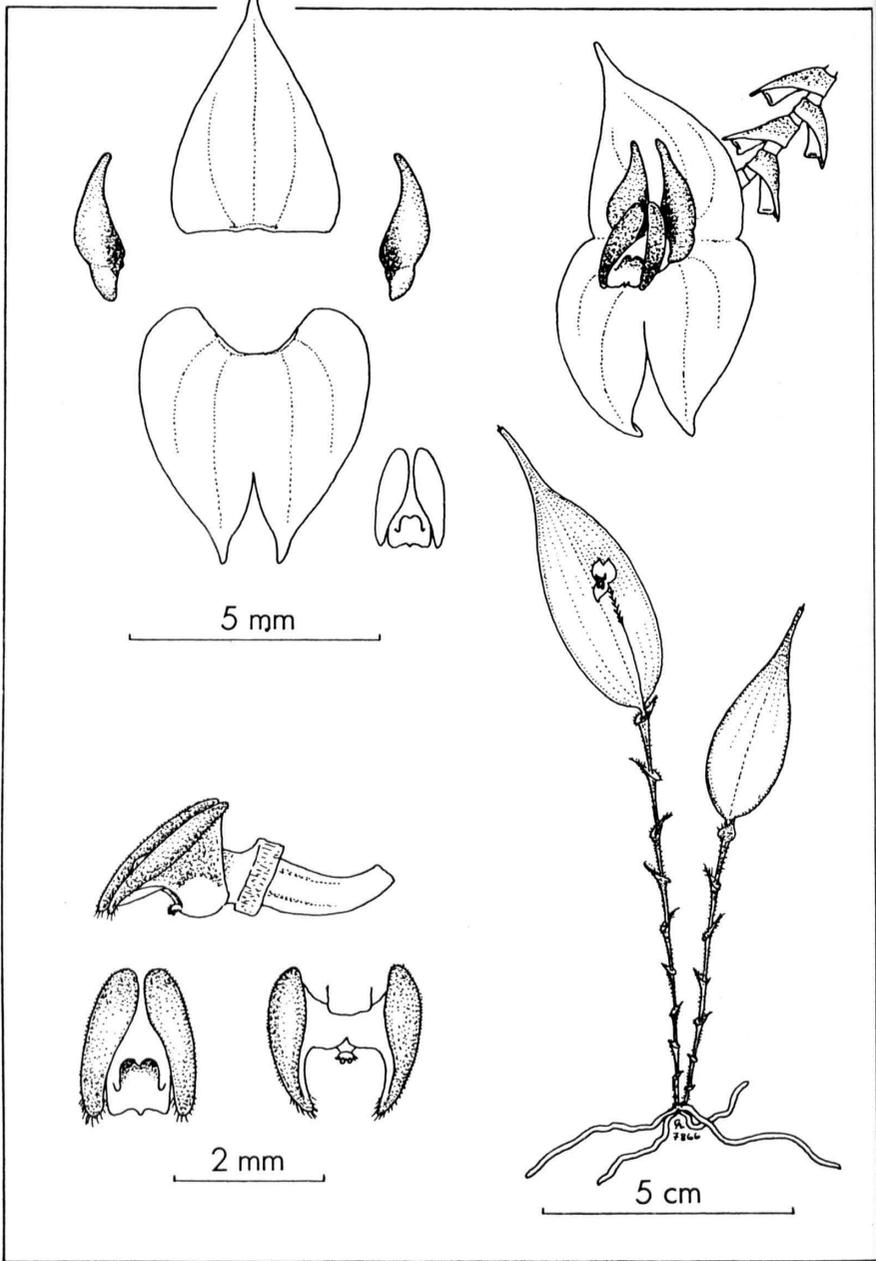


Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

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Esta especie se distingue por los tallos relativamente robustos, leplantiformes y gruesamente ciliados; un corto y apiñado racimo; sépalos ovados; un lóbulo inferior de los pétalos muy reducido; y un apéndice del labelo con un par de lóbulos terminales diminutos.