

116. **LEPANTHES CUNICULARIS** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris grandisve, ramicaulium vaginis dilatatis longipubescentibus, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio late elliptico obtuso abrupte acuminato brevioris, sepalis late ovatis obtusis, petalorum lobis superioribus grandis obovatis, lobis inferioribus parvis falcatis, labelli laminae oblongis, connectivis cuneatis, appendice oblonga minuta.

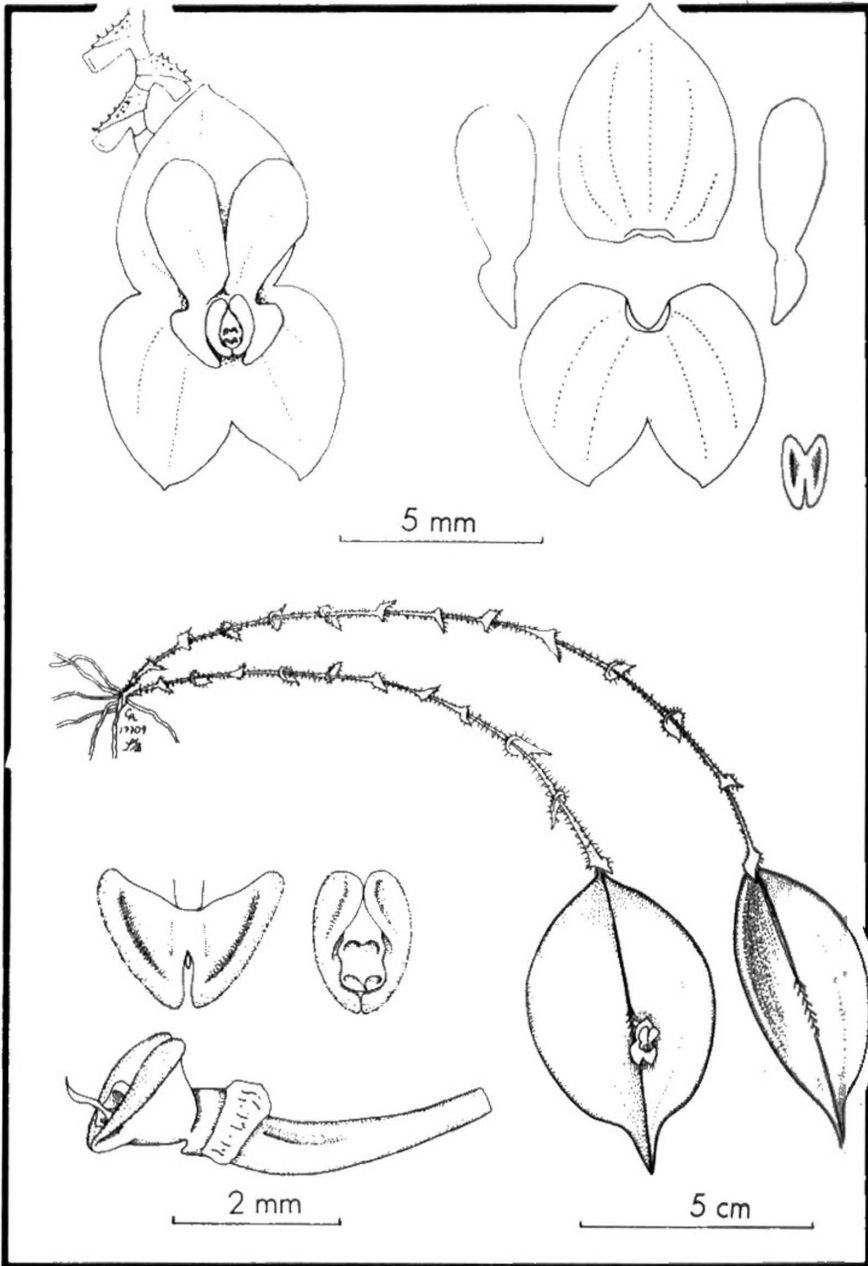
TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Risaralda: San Antonio del Chamí, alt. ca. 1800 m, collected by E. Valencia, July 1994, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquideas, 3 June 1995, *R. Escobar s.n.* (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr 17709.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *cunicularis*, "de conejos", en alusión a los grandes lóbulos superiores de los pétalos.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *cunicularis*, "of rabbits," referring to the large, upper lobes of the petals.

Plant medium to large in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, bending with the weight of the leaf, 7-15 cm long, enclosed by 13-16 light green, long-pubescent, lepanthiform sheaths with markedly dilated ostia. **Leaf** pendent when mature, coriaceous, broadly elliptical, obtuse, abruptly short-acuminate at the apex, 5-6 cm long, 3-4 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate, contracted into a petiole 3-4 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 15 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 18-27 mm long; floral bract spiculate, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 3-3.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, membranous, spiculate-carinate, widely spread, entire, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, concave below the middle, 5.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, obtuse, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate 2 mm; **petals** bright dark yellow, glabrous or cellular pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm long between lobes, the upper lobe obovate, rounded at the apex, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, the lower lobe falcate, 1.75 mm long, 1 mm wide; **lip** yellow with purple margins, bilaminar, the blades microscopically pubescent, narrowly oblong, 1.5 mm long, with rounded ends, the connectives cuneate, the body connate to the base of the column, the sinus acute with the appendix minute, narrowly oblong; **column** 1.5 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Esta especie, la que se conoce solamente de unas pocas plantas del departamento de Risaralda, se caracteriza por una hoja comparativamente grande,



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lo que hace que el ramicaule se agache. Las vainas del ramicaule son largamente ciliadas con la ostia marcadamente dilatada. La hoja es anchamente ovada con un ápice cortamente acuminado. Las flores nacen encima de la hoja en un atestado racimo. Los sépalos son obtusos; los grandes y obovados lóbulos superiores de los pétalos, como un par de orejas de conejo, tapan buena parte del sépalo dorsal. Los falcados lóbulos inferiores son mucho más pequeños. El labelo no tiene nada de especial, el pequeño apéndice nace de un agudo seno entre unas conectivas cuneadas que portan láminas angostas, obtusas.

This species, known only from a few plants from the department of Risaralda, is characterized by a comparatively heavy leaf that causes the ramicaul to bend. The sheaths of the ramicaul are long-ciliate with markedly dilated ostia. The leaf is broadly ovate with a shortly acuminate apex. The flowers are borne on top of the leaf in a congested raceme. The sepals are obtuse; the large, obovate upper lobes of the petals, like a pair of rabbit ears, obscure much of the dorsal sepal. The falcate lower lobes are much smaller. The lip is not remarkable, the small appendix being borne in an acute sinus between cuneate connectives that bear narrow, obtuse blades.



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