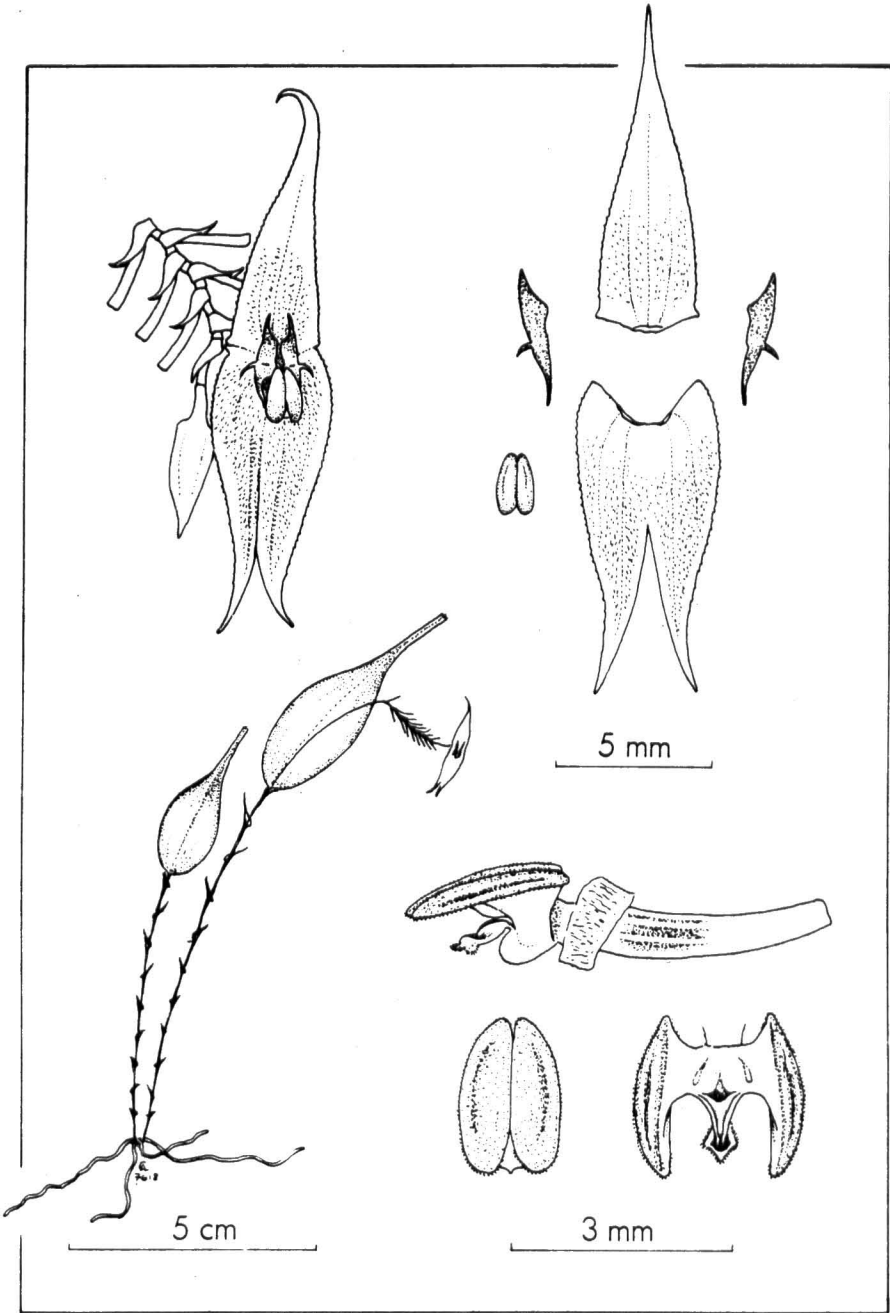


*Lepanthes diabolica* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima disticha folio elliptico apice longiattenuato plus minusve aequilonga, sepalis anguste ovatis acutis minute denticulatis pubescentibusque, petalis transverse bilobis cum lobo anguste uncinato laterali, lobo superiore dolabriformi, lobo inferiore anguste triangulari acuto, labelli laminis ellipticis minute pubescentibus, connectivis infra medium, corpore concavo, appendice liguliformi minutissime ciliata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-10 cm long, enclosed by 7-13 microscopically ciliate-scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical, acute, with narrowly attenuate apices, 4-6.5 cm long, 1-2 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate to rounded with a petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 20 mm long, borne on the dorsum of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 30-40 mm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2.5 mm long; ovary 3.5 mm long; sepals red, minutely pubescent, minutely denticulate, carinate, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate-triangular, acute, 10.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate,



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oblique, acute, 10 mm long, connate 3 mm, 4.5 mm wide together, each 2-veined; petals orange, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm long, 4.25 mm wide, with a minute, slender, lateral process, the upper lobe suboblong, acute, obtusely angled on the medial margin, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, acute, subequal in length; lip bilaminate, the blades yellow with a purple border, minutely pubescent, elliptical with rounded apices and obtuse bases, 2 mm long, the connectives cuneate, from the basal half of the blades, the body broad, concave centrally, convex below, connate to the column at the base, the appendix suboblong, convex below the middle, the apex subacute, minutely ciliate; column stout, 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the latin *diabolica*, "resembling a devil," referring to the red, minutely pubescent flowers with pointed sepals and petals .

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Santander: epiphytic in cloud forest between Bucaramanga and Berlin, alt. 2700 m, 7 May 1984 C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar, & E. Valencia 10158 (Holotype: MO).

This species is easily recognized by the thin, elliptical leaves with long-attenuate apices, and a very congested raceme of red flowers that are borne on the dorsum of the leaf, but soon to hang over the margin by the lengthening raceme. The sepals and petals are narrowly acute, the petals with a small, lateral process. The ligulate appendix protrudes from a cavity on the floor of the body of the lip.