

Lepanthes dolabriformis Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Prov. of Cartago: Volcán Turrialva, alt. 2000 m, 17 Mar. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, D. Retana & D. Dod 12089 (Holotype: MO). Fig. 5.

Species haec. *L. blepharistes* Rchb.f. affinis, sed petalorum lobis superioribus quam inferioribus multimajoribus dolabriformibusque distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls comparatively stout, erect, 1.5–5.5 cm long, enclosed by 5–9 minutely pubescent, lepanthiform sheaths with oblique, dilated ostia. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 15–25 mm long, 7–11 cm wide, the base cuneate, contracted into a 1 mm long petiole. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 15 mm long, borne to near the apex or beyond the apex of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 12–20 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long, muriculate; pedicels 1.5–2.5 mm long; ovary 1–1.5 mm long; **sepals** light red to light orange-brown, denticulate, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, lightly acuminate, 4–4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.75 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, subacute, acuminate, oblique, diverging, 3.5–4 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 0.75 mm; **petals** red, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.75–0.9 mm long, 3.5–3.75 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, obtusely angled on the inner margin above the middle with the apex narrowly rounded, the lower lobe much smaller, obliquely triangular, obtuse; **lip** orange, suffused with red, bilaminar, the blades microscopically pubescent, narrowly ovate, rounded posteriorly with the apices acute, incurved beneath the stigma, 2.2–2.4 mm long, the connectives short, oblique, broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the column above the base, the sinus obtuse with the appendix small, ciliate, bilobed; **column** slender, 2 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *dolabriformis*, “axe-shaped,” referring to the petals.

This small species is characterized by the little, elliptical, lightly acuminate leaf borne by a ramicaul with minutely ciliate sheaths dilated at the apex. The congested inflorescence is carried near or beyond the apex of the leaf. The ovate, lightly acuminate sepals are denticulate. The petals are bilobed, with the upper lobe erect, oblong, obtusely angled on the inner margin, and much larger than the small, falcate, lower lobe. The blades of the lip are narrowly ovate from short, broad

connectives, with a minute, ciliate appendix. *Lepanthes dolabriformis* is closely related to *L. blepharistes*, but in spite of the variable lip seen in the latter, it differs in the distinctive petals with a much larger upper lobe, obtusely angled on the inner margin to give a hatchet-shaped appearance.

PARATYPE: COSTA RICA. Heredia: Volcán Poás, alt. 2000 m, C. Luer & A. Luer 6346 (SEL).

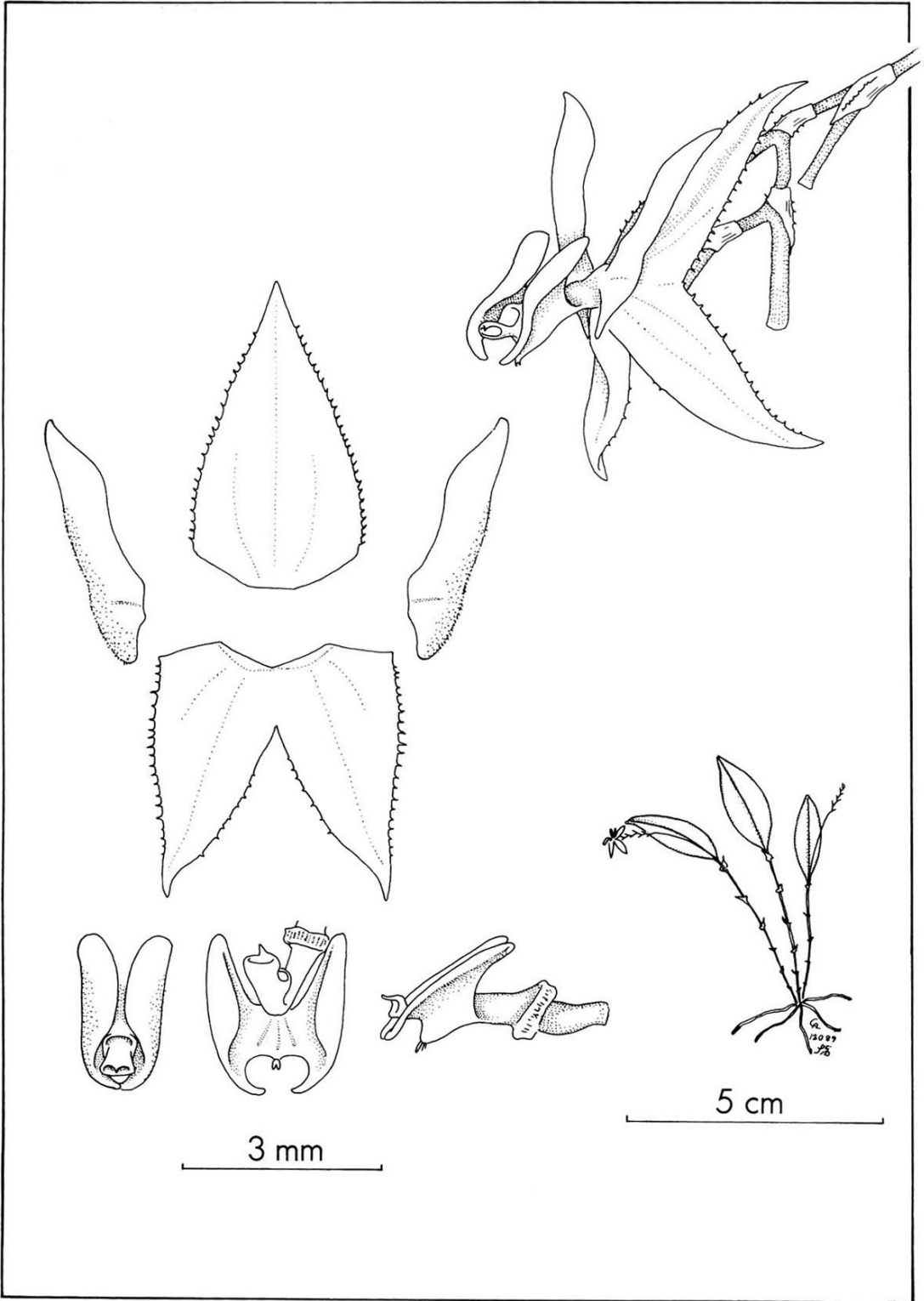


Fig. 5. *Lepanthes dolabriformis*