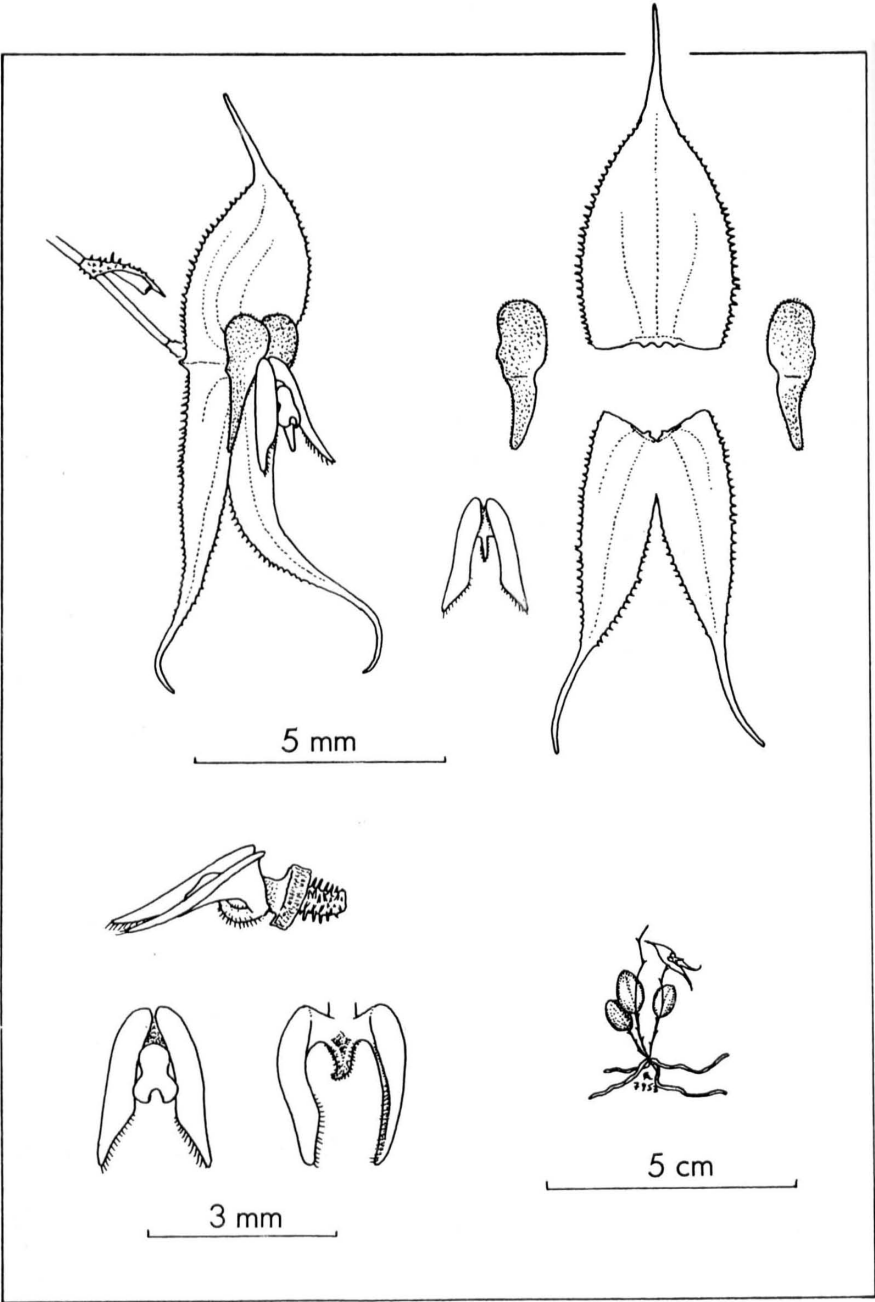


Lepanthes echidion Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta minuta, racemo laxe paucifloro folio elliptico duplolongiore, sepalis serrulatis caudatis, petalis transverse bilobis, labelli laminis anguste oblongis columnam excedentibus, appendice oblonga pubescenti incurvata.

Plant minute, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender but comparatively large for the plant. Secondary stems slender, erect, 5-10 mm long, enclosed by 2-4 close, minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 5-8 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, the base cuneate into a 1 mm long petiole. Inflorescence a successive, distantly 2- to 4-flowered raceme up to 15 mm long including the filiform peduncle; floral bract 2 mm long, ciliate; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long, spiculate; sepals red-brown with yellow tails, the margins serrate, the carinae echinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, 6.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the acute apex with a slender tail 2 mm long, the lateral sepals oblong, acute, 7 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 1 mm, the acute apices caudate as the dorsal sepal; petals orange, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobe broadly oblong, rounded, the lower lobe narrowly oblong, obtuse; lip red, the blades narrowly oblong, 2.5 mm long, glabrous except for the ciliate inner margin of the acute apex which surpasses the column, the connectives short, cuneate, from the bases of the bla-



Lepanthes echidion

Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

des, connate to the base of the column, the appendix thick, ligulate, pubescent, incurved and in contact with the stigma; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *echidion*, "a little viper," in allusion to the appearance of the echinate flowers with fanglike blades of the lip.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del griego *echidion*, "una pequeña víbora", en alusión a la apariencia de las flores equinadas con aletas del labelo que parecen colmillos.

TYPE: *COLOMBIA*: NORTE DE SANTANDER: Munic. of Toledo: Alto de Santa Inés, alt. 1.880 m, 23 May 1982, C. Luer, R. Escobar & D. Portillo 7953 (Holotype: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Colombia, Eastern Cordillera.

This tiny species is characterized by the few-flowered raceme twice as long as the little leaves. The caudate sepals are serrulate and echinate along the carinate veins; the petals are transversely bilobed and obtuse; the blades of the lip surpass the short column; and the appendix curves up to associate with the stigma.

Esta diminuta especie se caracteriza por el racimo de pocas flores el doble del largo de las pequeñas hojas. Los sépalos caudados son serrulados y equinados a lo largo de las venas carinadas; los pétalos son transversalmente bilobulados y obtusos; las aletas del labelo sobrepasan la corta columna; y el apéndice se curva hacia arriba para asociarse con el estigma.