

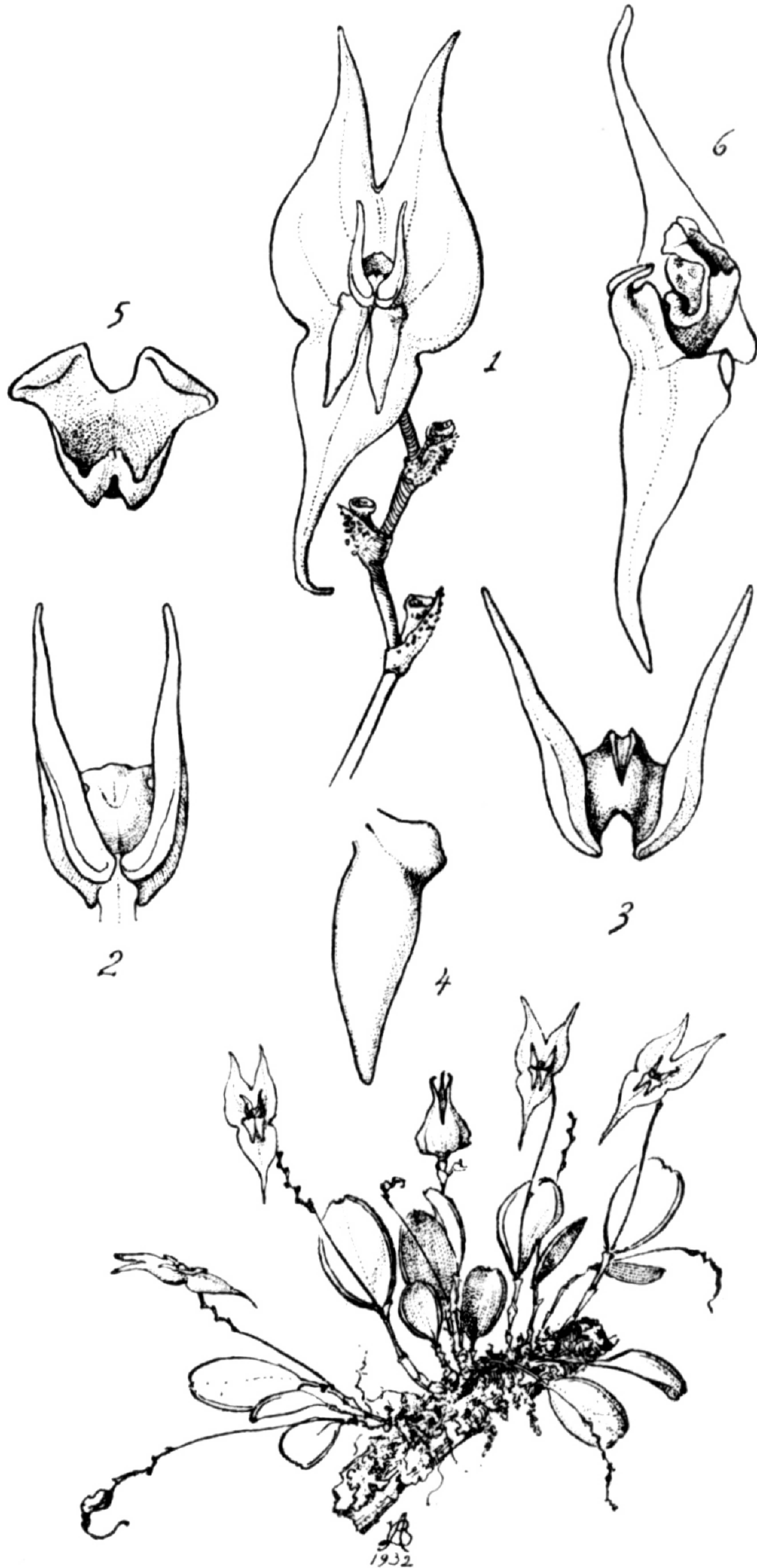
Lepanthes Edwardsii *Ames sp. nov.* Caules secundarii vaginis laxis, hispidis, tubularibus omnino inclusi, ascendentes, monophylli, caespitosi. Folia elliptica apice inconspicue tridenticulata, marginata, in petiolum contracta. Inflorescentiae folium excedentes, rachis fractiflexa. Sepala lateralia glabra, usque ad medium cohaerentia, laminam ovatam bifidam formantia. Sepalum dorsale lanceolatum, bene caudatum. Petala carnosae, lanceolata vel sub-semihastata, glabra, basi rotundata, apice subacuta. Labellum trilobatum; lobi laterales triquetri, anguste crescentiformes, acuti; lobus medius valde abbreviatus, oblongus, acutus. Columna valde arcuata.

Roots coarsely fibrous, whitish, smooth. Stems caespitose, monophyllous, 5-15 mm. long, slender, concealed by elongated tubular sheaths, erect or obliquely ascending, rigid. Sheaths two to five, 2-6 mm. long, the basal one shortest, finely hispidulous on the prominent longitudinal nerves, dilated at the mouth, with the margins

thickened and hispidulous, the uppermost one enclosing the petiole of the leaf and conspicuously dilated upward above the middle. Leaf elliptical, marginate, 5-15 mm. long, 4-7 mm. wide, contracted at base into a short petiole, apex tridenticulate. Peduncles 1-4, equalling or exceeding the leaves, arising from the axils of the leaves, 7-12 mm. long to the base of the first flower, slender, smooth, usually with a single bract near the middle, bearing six to seven flowers in succession, only one of which is expanded at a time. Floral bracts infundibuliform, hyaline, hispidulous, equalling the short rigid pedicels. Flowers conspicuous, the tips of the lateral sepals directed upwards, 13-14 mm. long from the tip of the dorsal sepal to the tips of the lateral sepals, whitish or yellowish with purple petals. Lateral sepals smooth, united to about the middle, forming a broadly ovate bifid 4-nerved lamina 6.5 mm. long, 4 mm. wide, free portion of each sepal triangular acute. Dorsal sepal smooth, 6.5 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, lanceolate, caudate. Petals fleshy, smooth, lanceolate or semi-hastate, obtuse or subacute, 2-2.5 mm. long, scarcely 1 mm. wide at the base, parallel, the inner margins approximate above, closely appressed to the dorsal sepal. Labellum 3-lobed, with the lateral lobes fleshy, triquetrous, 3 mm. long, very narrowly crescentiform, closely appressed to the column at base, parallel or with the tips strongly incurved, at the tip closely appressed to the lateral sepals; mid-lobe minute, oblong, acute, about five times shorter than the lateral lobes, concealed by the column, ascending or abruptly inflexed. Column 1 mm. long, strongly curved downward over the middle lobe of the lip. Anther deeply retuse at the apex.

This is a charming little orchid with flowers longer than its leaves, with membranaceous light yellow or whitish sepals and deep purple fleshy petals which hang

LEPANTHES
Edwardsii Ames



downward, closely applied to the dorsal sepal and at base extend very little beyond the column, their basal ends close to the base of the labellum. It is closely allied to *Lepanthes Johnsonii* Ames from which species it differs in the relative proportions between the petals and the sepals. In *L. Johnsonii* the sepals are purple and twice longer than in *L. Edwardsii* while in both species the petals and labellum are nearly equal in length. From *L. Tuerckheimii* Schltr. and *L. guatemalensis* Schltr. it differs conspicuously in the structure of the petals and in being vegetatively a much smaller species.

Edwards no. 261 differs from all the other specimens referred to *L. Edwardsii* in the color of the sepals which, except for a yellowish tinge at base, are purplish rather than yellow. It seems highly probable that the flowers of this species vary in color as they pass from youth to maturity.

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, Department of Comayagua, Pito Solo, Lake Yojoa. Epiphyte in dense forest, at 2,000 feet altitude. August 26, 1932. *J. B. Edwards* 96. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 39045) : Minas de Oro at Malcotal. Epiphyte in mountain forest, at 4,200 feet altitude. July 5, 1932. *J. B. Edwards* 196 : San Luis at Coyocutena. In dense mountain forest, at 4,000 feet altitude. May 25, 1932. *J. B. Edwards* 171 : Siguatepeque at El Achote. Epiphyte in dense forest, at 3,900 feet altitude. Flowers wine color, slightly lighter at base of petals. September 27, 1932. *J. B. Edwards* 261.

ILLUSTRATION : Plant natural size. 1, flower much enlarged. 2, labellum and column as seen from above. 3, labellum freed from the column to reveal the sharply upturned apex of the mid-lobe. 4, petal. 5, anther from the ventral side. 6, side view of the column and mid-lobe of lip, the lateral lobes forcibly spread apart.