

colored, minutely short-ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with oblique ostia. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, more or less suffused with purple beneath, ovate, acute, lightly acuminate, 4–7.5 cm long, 1.5–3 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate to rounded, contracted into a petiole 3 mm long. **Inflorescence** a densely congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 18–25 mm long; floral bracts 3 mm long, muricate; pedicels 4 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** pale yellow, glabrous, carinate, entire, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 4.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals connate 2.5 mm into an ovate, bifid lamina, 4.5 mm long, 3.2 wide, with the apices acute; **petals** yellow, marked with red on margins and base, transversely bilobed, 5 mm wide, the upper lobe obliquely ovate, obtuse, 3 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the lower lobe obliquely triangular, acute, 2 mm long, 0.6 mm wide; **lip** orange, suffused with purple, bilaminar, the blades convex, shortly pubescent, ovate, obtuse at the ends, long-ciliate at the apex, 1 mm long, the connectives narrowly oblong, the body connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse with the appendix reduced to a tuft of cilia; **column** stout, 1.75 mm long, the anther dorsal and the stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *elegans*, “elegant,” in reference to the beauty of the species.

PARATYPES: COSTA RICA. Cartago: Palo Blanco, Sitio Ortiz, Birris, headwaters of Río Turrialva, alt. 5000–6000 ft., Aug., ca. 1867, A. Endres s.n. (W); Agua Caliente near Cartago, ca. 1867, A. Endres s.n. (W). San José: Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo, near Zuruquí station, alt. 1630 m, 11 Dec. 1990, S. Ingram & K. Ingram-Ferrell 772 (CR).

This pretty species was illustrated and described by Endres about 1869 without indicating a preferred name. It was rediscovered by the Ingrams in 1991. It is characterized by the large habit with the congested, long-pedicellate raceme shorter than the ovate leaf that is borne by dark, minutely pubescent, lepanthiform sheaths. The dorsal sepal is ovate and acute while the laterals are connate above the middle into an ovate, bifid lamina. The upper lobe of the petals is ovate and obtuse, considerably larger than the narrowly triangular lower lobe. The blades of the lip are smaller than the column, convex with long-ciliate

Lepanthes elegans Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Cartago: beyond the Laguna, Sitio Ortiz, Birris, Aug., ca. 1867, A. Endres 586 (Holotype: W). Fig. 8.

Planta grandis, inflorescentia racemosa congesta longipedicellata folio ovato brevior, sepalis dorsalibus ovato acuto, synsepalo ovato bifurcato, petalis grandibus lobo superiore ovato obtuso et lobo inferiore minore anguste triangulari acuto, labelli laminis ovatis columna minoribus apice longiciliatis.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls stout, erect, 6–15 cm long, enclosed by 10–15 closely fitting, darkly

apices. The appendix is reduced to a minute tuft of cilia.

Lepanthes elegans is closely related to *L. disticha* and *L. turrialvae*, but is readily distinguished from them by the much larger habit and ovate instead of elliptical leaves, and ciliate blades of the lip that are shorter than the column. Specimens intermediate between *L. elegans* and *L. disticha* have been seen.

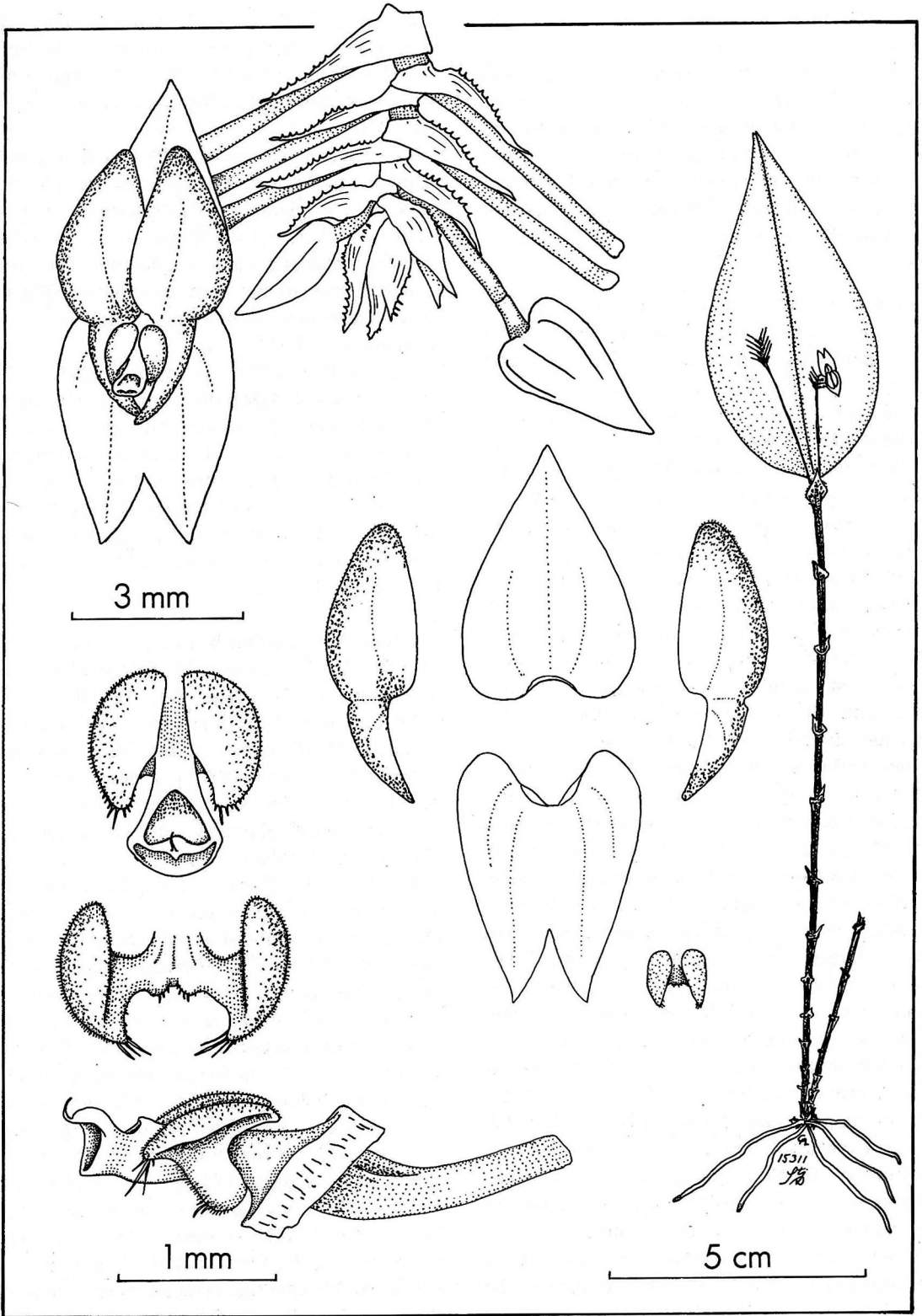


Fig. 8. *Lepanthes elegans* Luer.