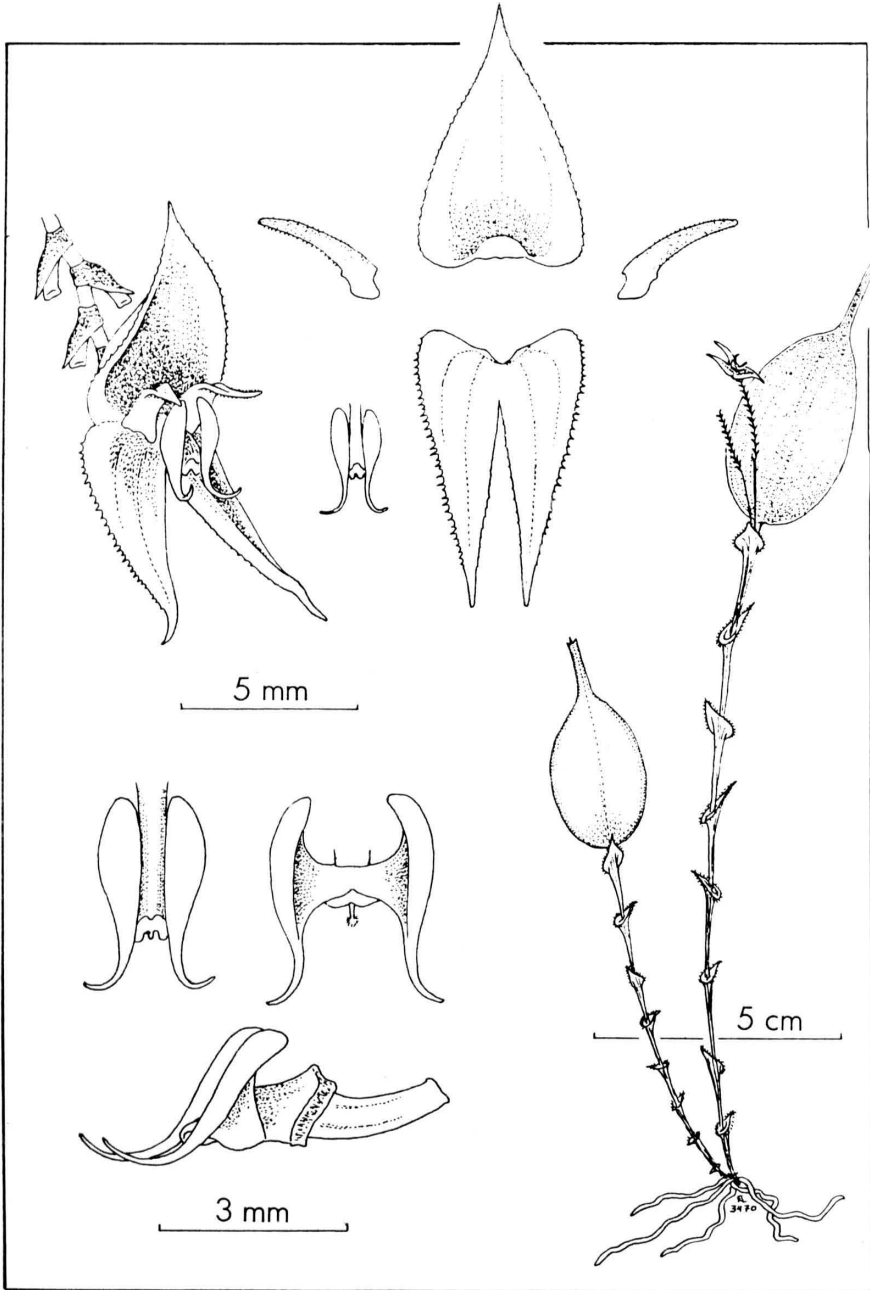


Lepanthes elephantina Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris vel grandis, foliis ellipticis apice abrupte contractis linearibus apiculatis, racemo congesto folio brevior, sepalis denticulatis, petalorum lobo superiore quam inferiore multilongiore, labelli laminis anguste acuminatis incurvis, appendice minuta clavellata.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems stout, erect, 5-19 cm long, enclosed by 7-12 lepanthiform sheaths with ciliate ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, 3.5-6 cm long, 1.7-2.6 cm wide, the apex abruptly contracted into a linear extension 1-1.5 cm long,



Lepanthes elephantina

Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

tridenticulate, the center tooth longest, the rounded base abruptly contracted into a petiole 3-4 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme up to 35 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle up to 15 mm long; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 2 mm long.; sepals purple, edged in yellow, denticulate, the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, acute, acuminate, 7.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals narrowly triangular, acute, 8 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, connate 1 mm; petals bright rose, minutely pubescent, unequally transversely bilobed, 0.8 mm long, 4 mm wide, the upper lobe narrowly oblong, obtuse, angled outward, the lower lobe very short, subquadrate, truncate; lip bright rose, the blades glabrous, narrowly ovate, 3 mm long, the apices acute, narrowly acuminate, incurved, the bases obtuse, the connectives narrowly cuneate, connate to the column above the base, the obtuse sinus traversed by a broad membrane with a minute, slender, clavate, pubescent appendix; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *elephantinus*, "of ivory, of an elephant," referring to the tusklife blades of the lip.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *elephantinus* "de marfil, de un elefante", en referencia a las láminas del labelo en forma de colmillos.

TYPE: *COLOMBIA*: NARIÑO: epiphytic in cloud forest on the east slopes of Volcán Galeras, alt. 3.200 m, 21 Jan. 1979, C. Luer & J. Luer 3470 (Holotype: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Colombia.

The purple, elliptical leaves of this colorful species are abruptly contracted into a narrow, apical segment; the purple sepals edged in yellow are denticulate; the upper lobe of the petals is long and protruding, the lower lobe, very short; the narrow apices of the acuminate blades of the lip curve upward like a pair of tiny tusks.

Las purpúreas hojas elípticas de esta vistosa especie se contraen abruptamente en un estrecho segmento apical; los sépalos púrpura bordeados en amarillo son denticulados; el lóbulo superior de los pétalos es largo y sobresaliente, el lóbulo inferior muy corto; los estrechos ápices de las láminas acuminadas del labelo se recurvan hacia arriba como un par de pequeños colmillos.