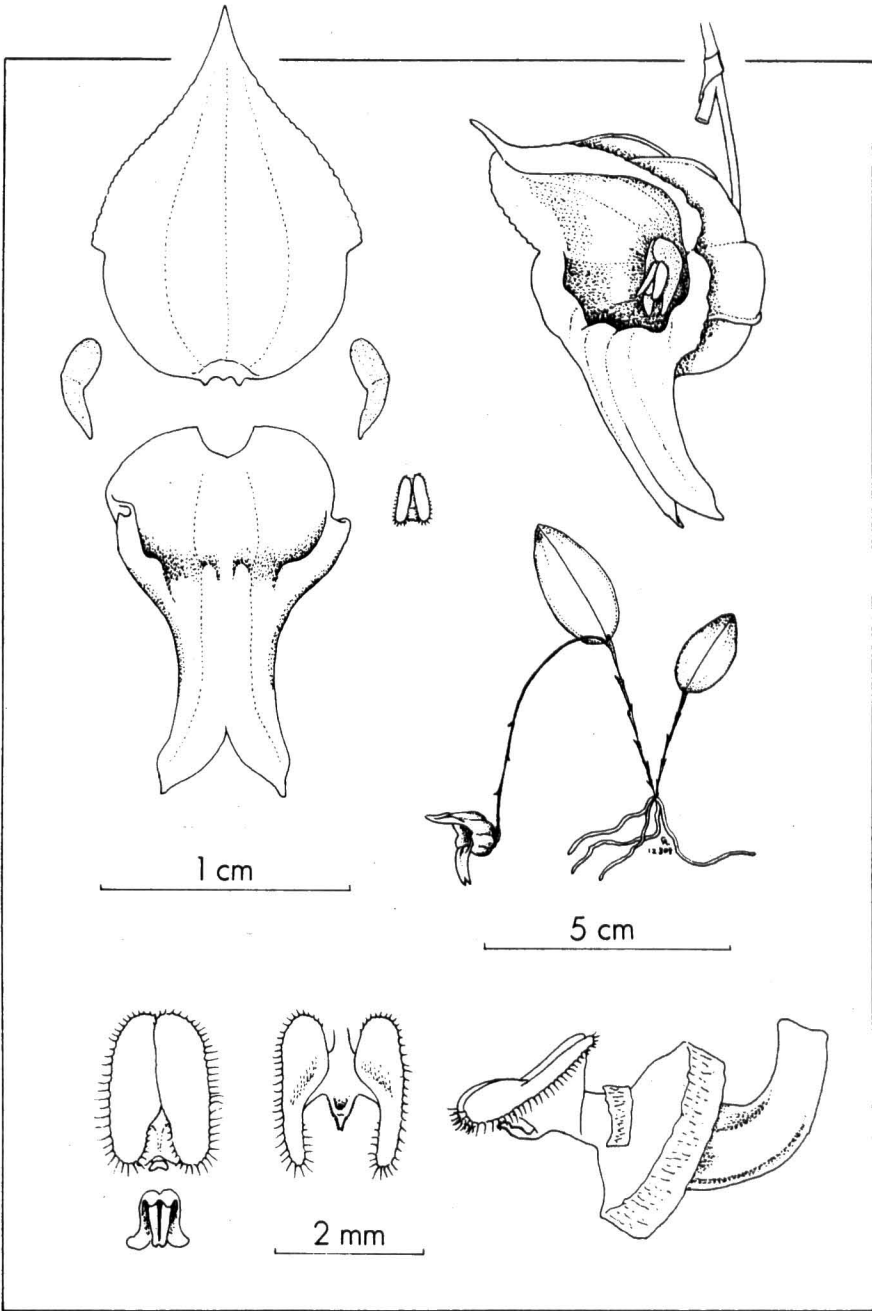


*Lepanthes erythrocles* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima longi-pedicellata folio ovato acuminato brevior, sepalis late ovatis breviter acuminatis lateralibus denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobatis, lobo superiore oblique oblongo brevipubescenti, lobo inferiore oblique triangulari longipubescenti, labelli laminis ellipticis tenuibus brevipubescentibus



*Lepanthes erythrocles* Luer & Escobar

supra columnam connatis, connectivis late oblongis, corpore crasso, appendice oblonga pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2-5 cm long, enclosed by xx minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous,? ovate,? acute, 2-3 cm long, 1-1.5 cm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole? 2 mm long. Inflorescence a loose, successively few-flowered, pendent raceme up to 3 cm long, borne by an arching, filiform peduncle 3-3.5 cm long, the flowers large, resupinate; floral bract 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1.5-2.5 mm long; ovary curved, 2 mm long; sepals light green, largely suffused with red-brown, carinate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, concave, obtusely acuminate-acute, 15 mm long, 10 mm wide incompletely expanded, the free margins lightly revolute, minutely erose, connate to the lateral sepals for 7 mm to form a globose sepaline cup, the lateral sepals oblique, subovate, 15 mm long, 10 mm wide unexpanded, connate 7 mm, deeply concave below the middle, deflexed and approximate with revolute margins above the middle, the apices subacute; petals yellow, transversely bilobed, cellular-glandular, 1 mm long, 4 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, obtuse, the lower lobe obliquely triangular, acute; lip rose with the inner margin purple, bilaminiate, the blades oblong with rounded ends, glabrous but long-ciliate, 2 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, forming a broad body, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, with the appendix scaphoid, pubescent with an apical gland; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek *erythrocles*, "great red," referring to the name, "Big Reg," affectionately applied to this species by Janet Kuhn.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Cundinamarca: collected by Janet Kuhn near Fusagasugá, ca. 1975, cultivated at J & L Orchids, Easton, CT., flowered in cultivation 25 April 1987, *C. Luer 12808* (Holotype: MO).

This species is related to *L. chelonion* Luer & Escobar and *L.*

*nautilus* Luer & Escobar, both also from the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia, but the racemes of *L. erythrocles* are pendent. *Lepanthes erythrocles*, discovered by Janet Kuhn about 1975, has been in cultivation under the name "Big Reg" at J. & L Orchids since that time. It is easily recognized by the large, red-brown and green, subglobose flower suspended in a loose, successively flowered, pendent raceme. Within the cavity of the flower the petals, lip and column form a compact apparatus on the back wall. The blades of the lip are long-ciliate, and the appendix is pubescent and boat-shaped.