

Lepanthes falcifera Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Cartago: beyond the laguna, Sitio Ortiz, Birris, ca. 1867, A. Endres 53, sketch 663 (Holotype: W). Fig. 9.

Planta parva, racemo congesto disticho folio anguste ovato brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis acuminatis minute denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobo superiore truncato, lobo inferiore anguste triangulari, labelli laminis falcatis et appendice minuta.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, weak, 2–7 cm long, enclosed by 7–14 whitish, microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths, with oblique, widely dilated ostia. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, acuminate, 2–3.5 cm long, 0.6–1.2 mm wide, the base cuneate into a 1–2 mm long petiole. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 8–14 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long, lightly muricate; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary tall-costate, 1–1.25 mm long; **sepals** greenish brown, minutely denticulate, carinate-spiculate along the veins, ovate, subacute, acuminate, the dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals diverging, oblique, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm; **petals** blood red, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.8 mm long, 3 mm wide, the upper lobes oblong, obliquely truncate, the lower lobes smaller, narrowly triangular, narrowly obtuse; **lip** blood red, bilaminate, the blades glabrous, ovate, 1 mm long, with the posterior ends rounded, with the apices acute, acuminate, incurved beneath the column, the connectives obliquely oblong, the body short, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, without a minute, pubescent appendix; **column** semiterete, 1 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *falcifer*, “sickle-bearing,” referring to the blades of the lip.

PARATYPE: COSTA RICA. Cartago: Cieneegas, east of Sitio Ortiz, Birris, ca. 1867, A. Endres *s.n.* (W).

This species was apparently abundant locally a century ago because three herbarium sheets are filled with 14 plants. No description and only one front-view sketch of the flower is present. Whether other material existed is unknown. The species is not known to me from any other collection. Other sheets contain mixtures of this species and *L. myiophora* Luer.

Lepanthes falcifera is distinguished by the small, weak habit with narrowly ovate, acuminate leaves borne by slender ramicauls with the sheaths widely dilated at the apices; a congested, distichous raceme; acuminate, denticulate sepals; truncate upper lobes of the petals; and blades of the lip with uncinat apices that reach beneath the column, similar to the blades of the Panamanian *L. odontolabis* Luer.

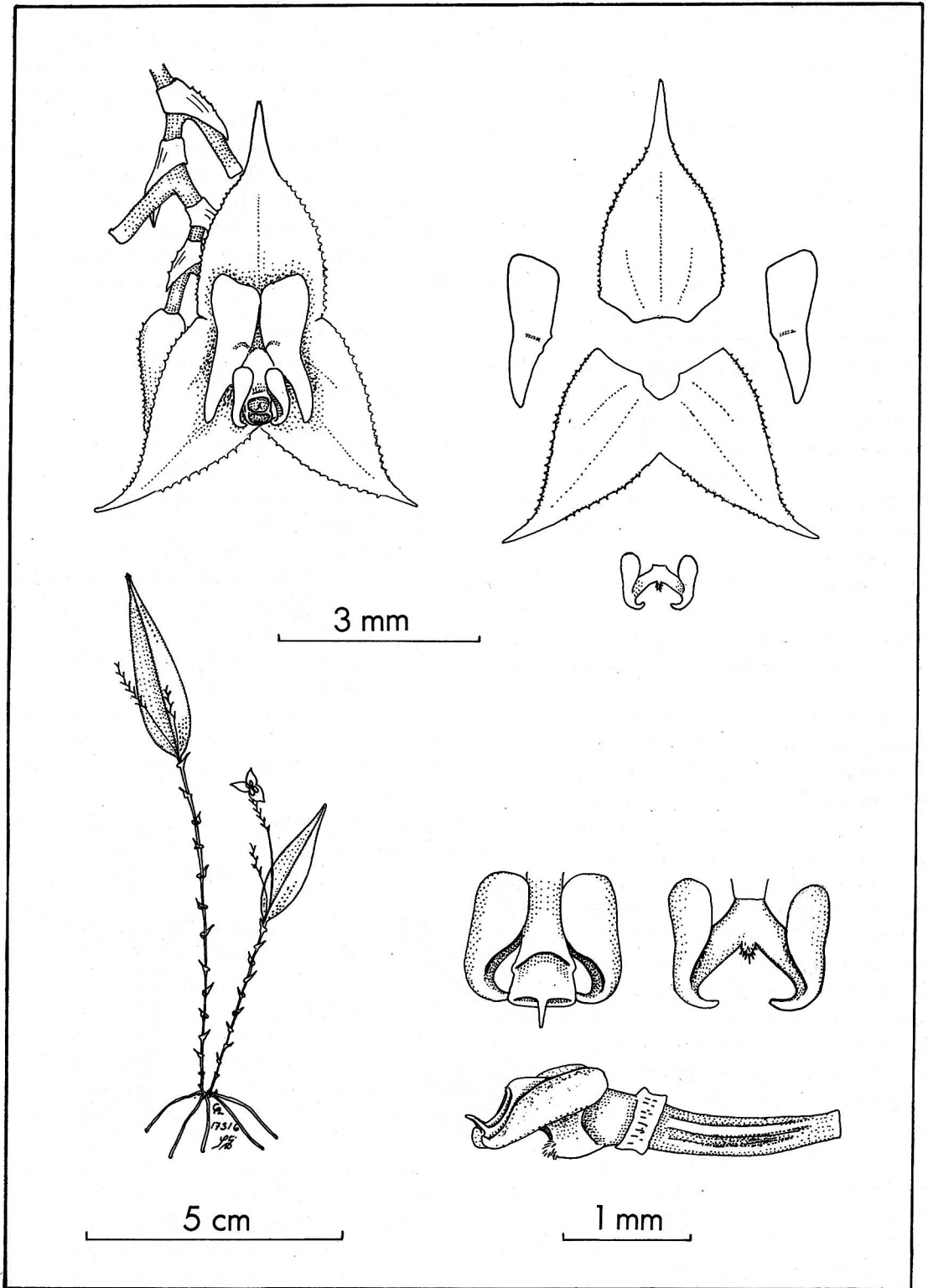


Fig. 9. *Lepanthes falcifera* Luer.