

*Lepanthes grildrig* Luer & Escobar sp. nov.

Planta perpusilla, racemo laxo paucifloro folio late elliptico duplolongiore, sepalis anguste triangularibus acutis acuminatis, petalis lunatis, labelli laminis anguste ovatis acutis, connectivis brevissimis, appendice minuta pubescenti.

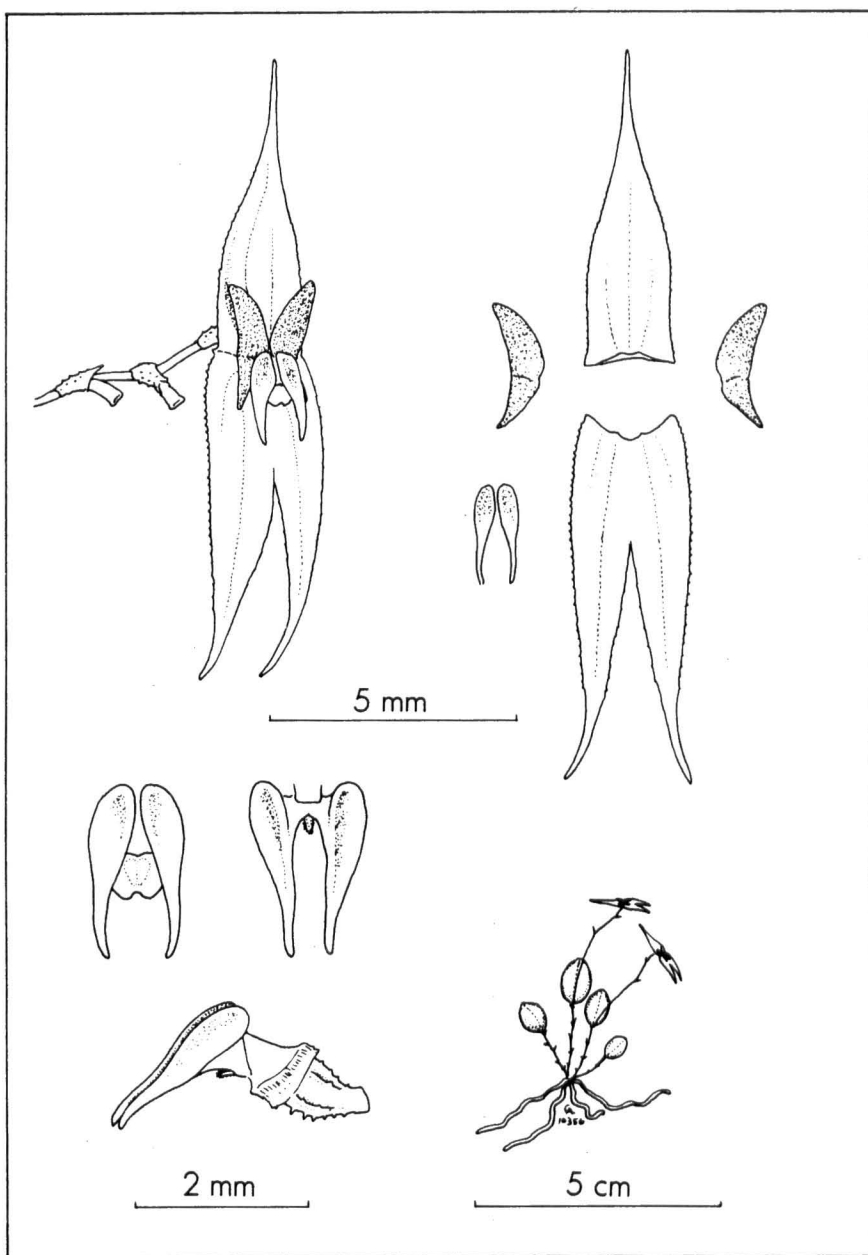
Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse for the size of the plant. Ramicauls slender, erect, 8-15 mm long, enclosed by 5-6 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, broadly elliptical,

obtuse, 8-11 mm long, 5-6.5 mm wide, the broadly cuneate base contracted into a petiole 1-1.5 mm long. Inflorescence a loose, lightly flexuous, successively few-flowered raceme up to 20 mm long including the filiform peduncle 12-15 mm long; floral bract echinate, 1 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary lightly cellular-echinate, 1 mm long; sepals narrowly triangular, acute, acuminate, carinate, with minutely denticulate margins, the dorsal sepal light yellow, suffused with red-brown medially, concave, 6.5 mm long, 2 mm wide expanded, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals light yellow, suffused with light red on the outer half, 7.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, connate 2 mm; petals red, microscopically pubescent, bilobed-lunate, 0.75 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the lobes triangular, oblique, acute, the upper lobe larger; lip bilaminar, the blades yellow, suffused with red at the base, microscopically pubescent, narrowly ovate, 2 mm long, acute at the apices, round at the bases, the connectives very short cuneate from the base of the lamina, the body narrow, connate to the column at the base, the sinus acute with a minute, oblong, ciliate appendix; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Named for the singular, diminutive Gulliver, called Grildrig by the giants of Brobdingnag.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Norte de Santander: epiphytic in cloud forest, Alto de Santa Inés, alt. 2200 m, 13 May 1984, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 10356 (Holotype: MO).

Only one plant of this tiny species was discovered in an area exceedingly rich in pleurothallids, especially in the genus *Lepanthes*. What was left of the plant, after an herbarium specimen had been made, thrived in cultivation at Colomborquídeas. The minute *L. grildrig* is recognized by the loose, few-flowered raceme about twice longer than the little elliptical leaves. The sepals are narrow, attenuate and minutely denticulate; the petals narrowly crescent-shaped; and the lobes of the lip are narrowly ovate.



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