

136. **LEPANTHES IMBRICANS** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

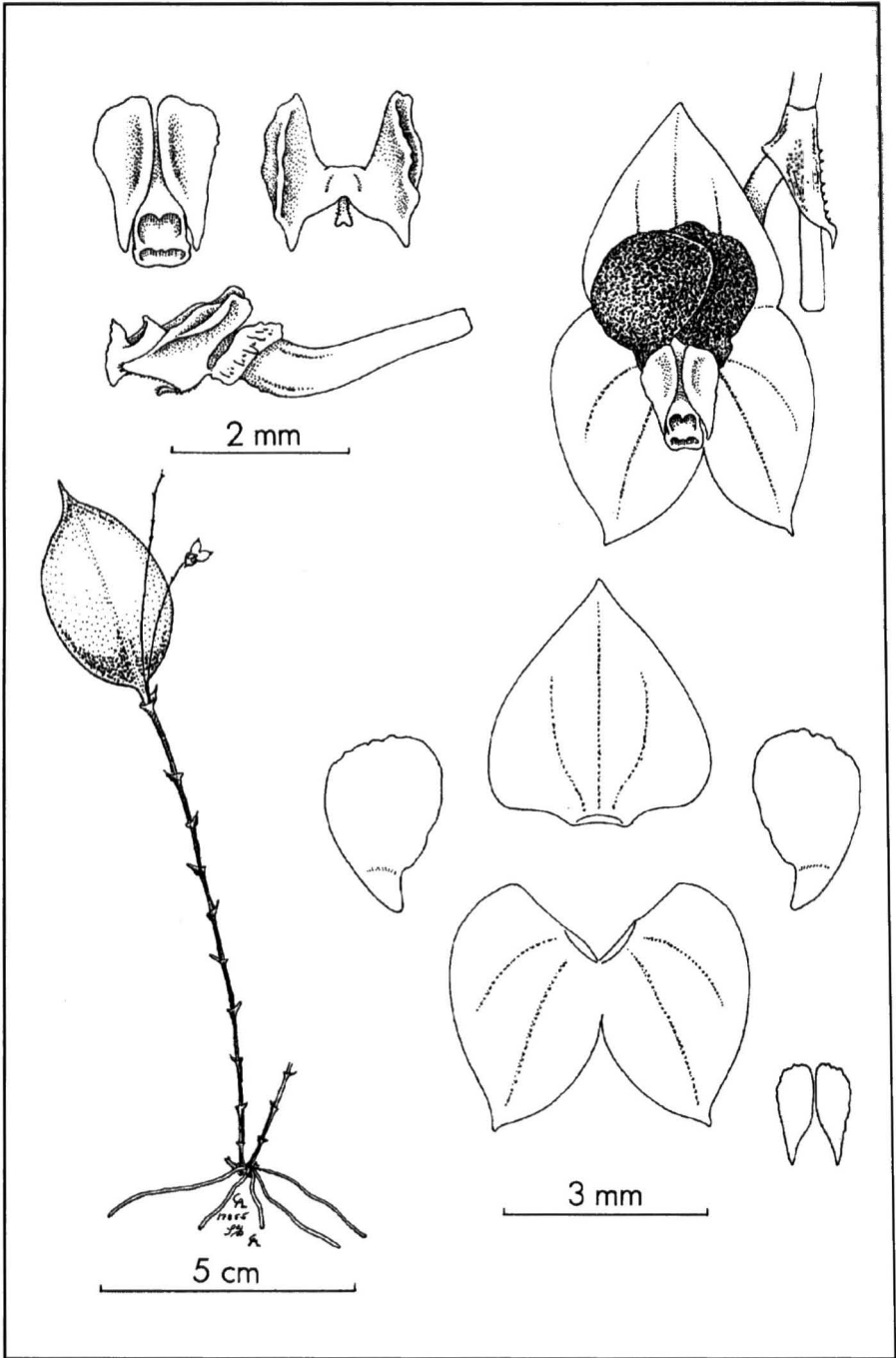
Planta mediocris, racemo laxo folio oblongo breviter acuminato plus minusve aequilongo, sepalis late ovatis obtusis, petalorum lobis superioribus atropurpureis grandibus suborbicularibus imbricatis, lobo inferiore multiminori, et labelli laminis tenuibus suberosis.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Cauca: without specific locality, collected by Luis Aguirre, cultivated at J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, 30 Apr. 1996, C. Luer 17855 (Holotype: MO).

ETIMOLOGÍA: Del latín *imbricans* (superpuestos como las tejas de los techos), en alusión a los lóbulos superiores de los pétalos.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *imbricans*, "overlapping like shingles," referring to the upper lobes of the petals.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 4-10 cm long, enclosed by 6-10 lepanthiform sheaths with the dilated margins of the ostia microscopically ciliate. **Leaf**, erect, coriaceous, elliptical, 3-4.5 cm long, 2-2.5 cm mm wide, the apex obtuse, shortly acuminate, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively several-flowered raceme up to 5 cm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 15-25 mm long; floral bracts 2 mm long; pedicels 3 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** orange, glabrous, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, 3.6 mm long, 3.3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, obtuse, 3.4 mm long, 2.1 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm; **petals** dark purple, green at the base, glabrous, transversely bilobed, the upper lobes suborbicular, overlapping, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide, with the upper margin more or less irregular-erose, the lower lobes triangular, 0.5 mm long; **lip** orange, bilaminate, the laminae thin, more or less concave, glabrous, ovate, with the apices acute, with the margins irregular, 1.4 mm long, the



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connectives short, broadly cuneate, the body connate to the base of the column, the appendix oblong, pubescent, truncate-retuse at the apex; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

La especie es de tamaño mediano y se distingue por la hoja oblonga, cortamente acuminada, a cuya longitud se aproxima la de un racimo laxo de flores sucesivas. Los pétalos son de color púrpura, con los lóbulos superiores grandes, suborbiculares, y ampliamente superpuestos encima de la columna, y los inferiores mucho más pequeños, triangulares. Las láminas del labelo son delgadas, con bordes desiguales, y nacen de conectivas cortas, anchamente cuneadas.

This medium-sized species is distinguished by the oblong, shortly acuminate leaf that is more or less equaled in length by a lax, successively flowered raceme. The sepals are orange, broadly ovate and obtuse. The upper lobes of the deep purple petals are large and suborbicular, and broadly overlapping above the column. The lower lobes are triangular and much smaller. The blades of the lip are thin with uneven margins, and borne by short, broadly cuneate connectives.