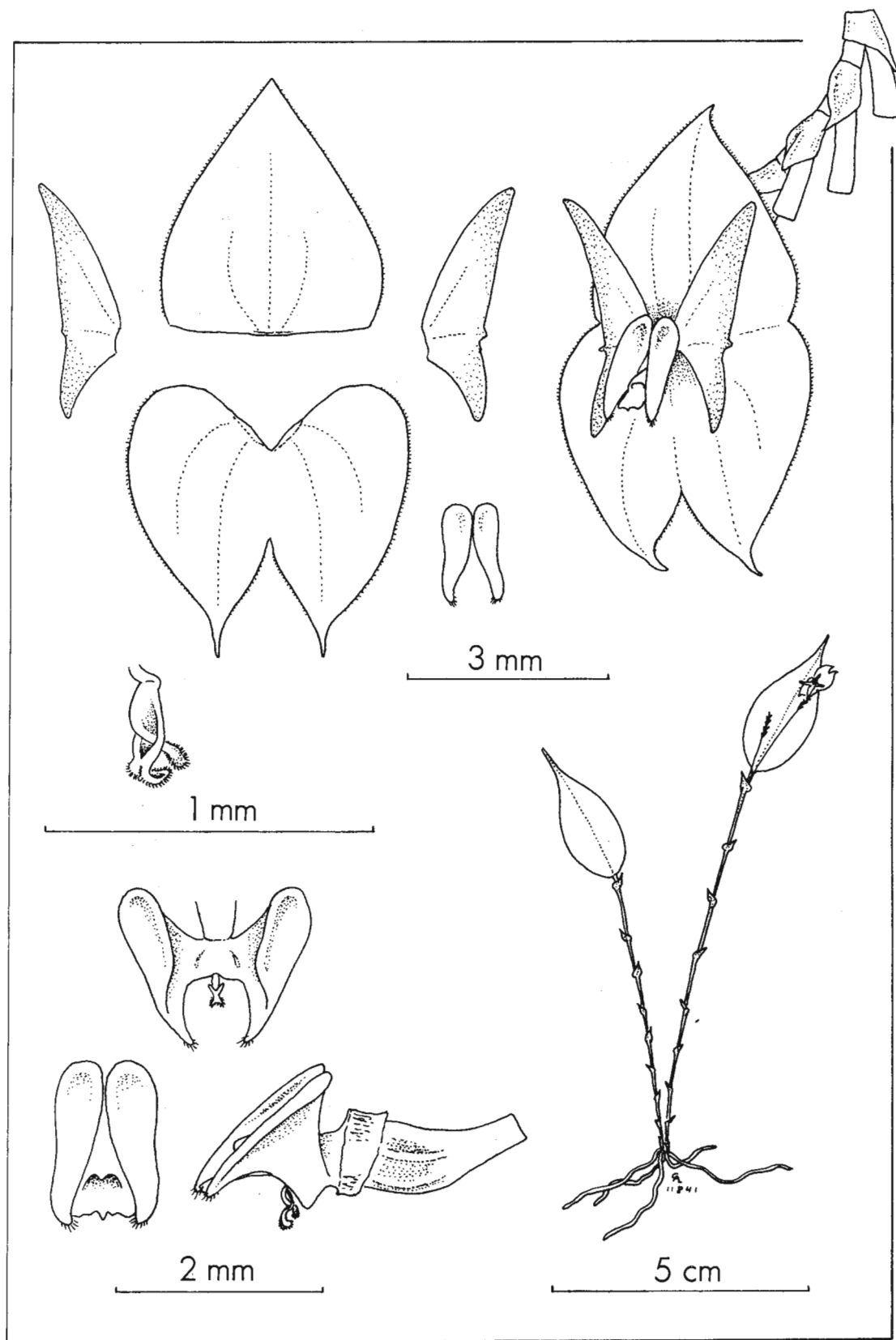


Lepanthes implexa Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta secunda folio ovato acuminato brevior, sepalis late ovatis obtusis, petalis transverse bilobis lobis triangularibus, lobo superiore majore, labello bilaminato, laminis oblongis, connectivis cuneatis, appendice intricata implexa.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 4-8 cm long, enclosed by 8-11 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, ovate, acute, acuminate, 2.5-3.5 cm long, 1.2-1.5 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1.5-2.5 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively several-flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 10-20 mm long; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 1.5-2 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals light tan, minutely denticulate, broadly ovate, subacute to obtuse, carinate, the dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals shortly acuminate, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; petals yellow, suffused with red-brown on the inner margin, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lobes triangular, acute, the upper lobe larger than the lower; lip bilaminar, red-brown, the laminae narrowly ovate, glabrous, 1.6 mm long, the bases rounded, the apices subacute, ciliate, the connectives cuneate, the body thick, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, with an intricately sculpted appendix hinged from the margin, the appendix membranous, oblong and convex with a midrib below the middle, with the margins surrounding the midrib which becomes deflexed above the middle and terminates below the margins in a pubescent, clavate apex, the margins uniting beyond the midrib into a pubescent, decurved apex; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *implexus*, "entwined, interwoven," referring to intricacies of the appendix.



Lepanthes implexa Luer & Hirtz

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of Morona-Santiago: epiphytic in cloud forest east of the pass between Guallaceo and Limón, alt. 2150 m, 16 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Embree, A. Hirtz & W. Flores 11841 (Holotype: MO).

Although vegetatively somewhat smaller, this species is similar to *L. urotepala* Reichb.f. *Lepanthes implexa* differs in having minutely denticulate sepals; the upper lobes of the petals are neither as narrow nor as long; and the appendix is differently sculpted from that of *L. urotepala*. Reichenbach, of course, never saw the appendix of the dried specimen of *L. urotepala* which was collected by Jameson on the western slopes of Pichincha. Plants answering exactly the description and sketches of *L. urotepala* have been found in the same area as the type collection as well as a little farther north in the province of Imbabura. Only in this manner could the details of the appendix of the true *L. urotepala* be learned. The appendix of *L. urotepala* is transected into two ciliate parts: the upper resembling a bird's head with a beak, the lower spoon-shaped.