

Lepanthes lappacea Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Puntarenas, Coto Brus, near Las Cruces, collected by Cordelia Head, Aug. 1977, flowered in cultivation at J & L Orchids, 10 May 1995, C. Luer 17505 (Holotype: MO). Fig. 6.

Planta mediocris, ramicaulibus gracillimis folio ovato acuto longioribus, racemis paucis multifloribus, floribus minutissimis, sepalis obtusis minute denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobis glabris, labelli laminis oblongis glabris et appendice lappacea.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, suberect, 7–9.5 cm long, enclosed by 10–12 closely fitting, microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths with oblique ostia. **Leaf** thinly coriaceous, ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, 4–5 cm long, 1.6 cm wide, the base cuneate into petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** 2–3 congested, many-flowered racemes, up to 38 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 8–10 mm long; floral bracts microscopically scabrous, 1 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1.25 mm long; **sepals** yellow, minutely denticulate, broadly ovate, obtuse, the dorsal sepal 2 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 1.75 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm; **petals** orange, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined, the lobes oblong-ovate, obtuse, subequal; **lip** purple, microscopically pubescent, bilaminar, the blades oblong, 1.1 mm long, the ends rounded with the apices slightly diverging, the connectives oblong, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the appendix large, ovoid, long-pubescent, hinged to the obtuse sinus; **column** stout, clavate, 1 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *lappaceus*, “like a burr,” referring to the large, ovoid, pubescent appendix.

This species is distinguished by the thin rami-

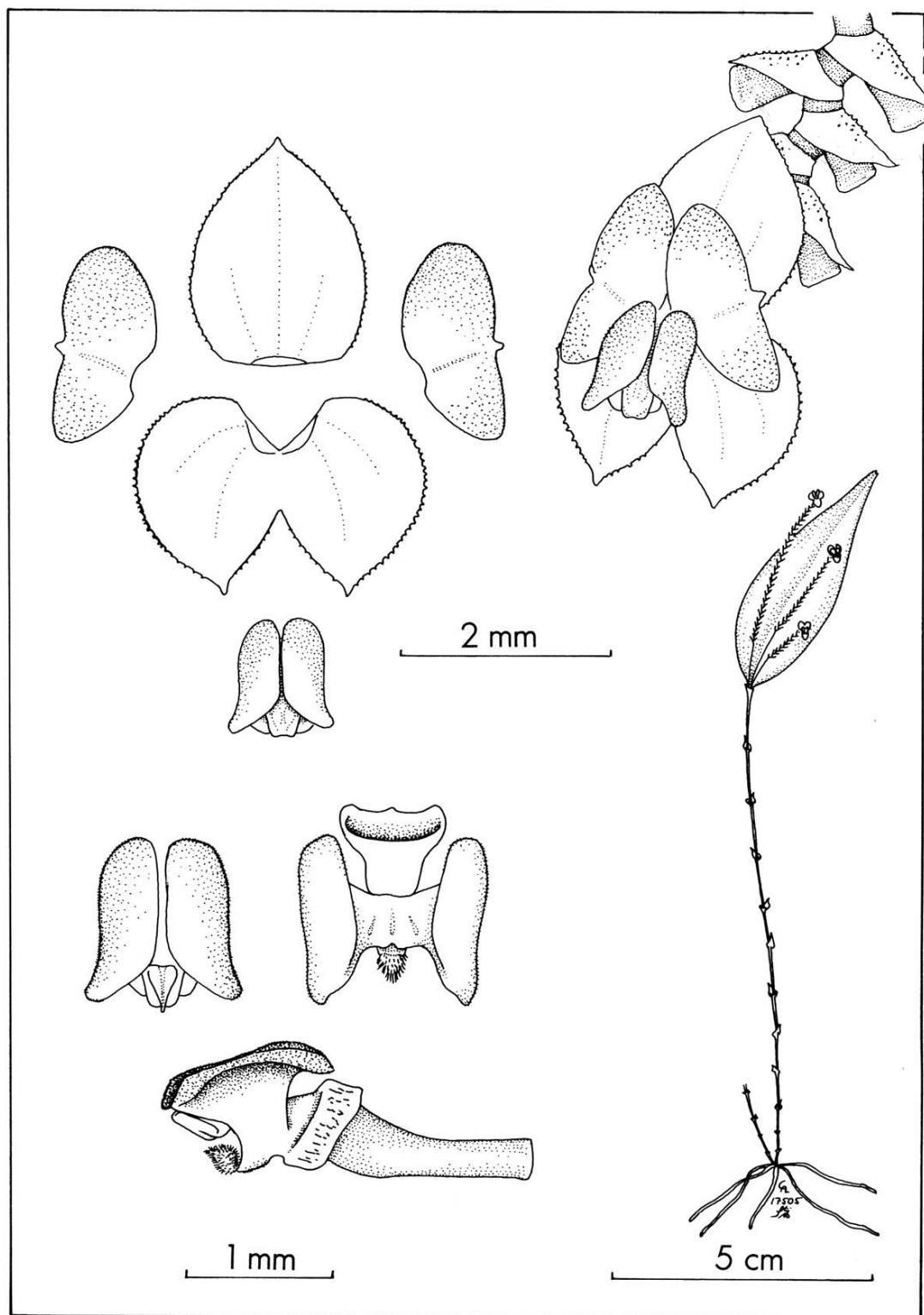


Fig. 6. *Lepanthes lappacea*

cauls and a thinly coriaceous, ovate lip. Two to four, successively many-flowered racemes are borne on top of the leaf. The flowers are very small. The sepals are broadly ovate and minutely denticulate. The blades of the lip are oblong with the apices slightly diverging, and the ovoid, long-pubescent appendix is proportionately large, resembling a burr.