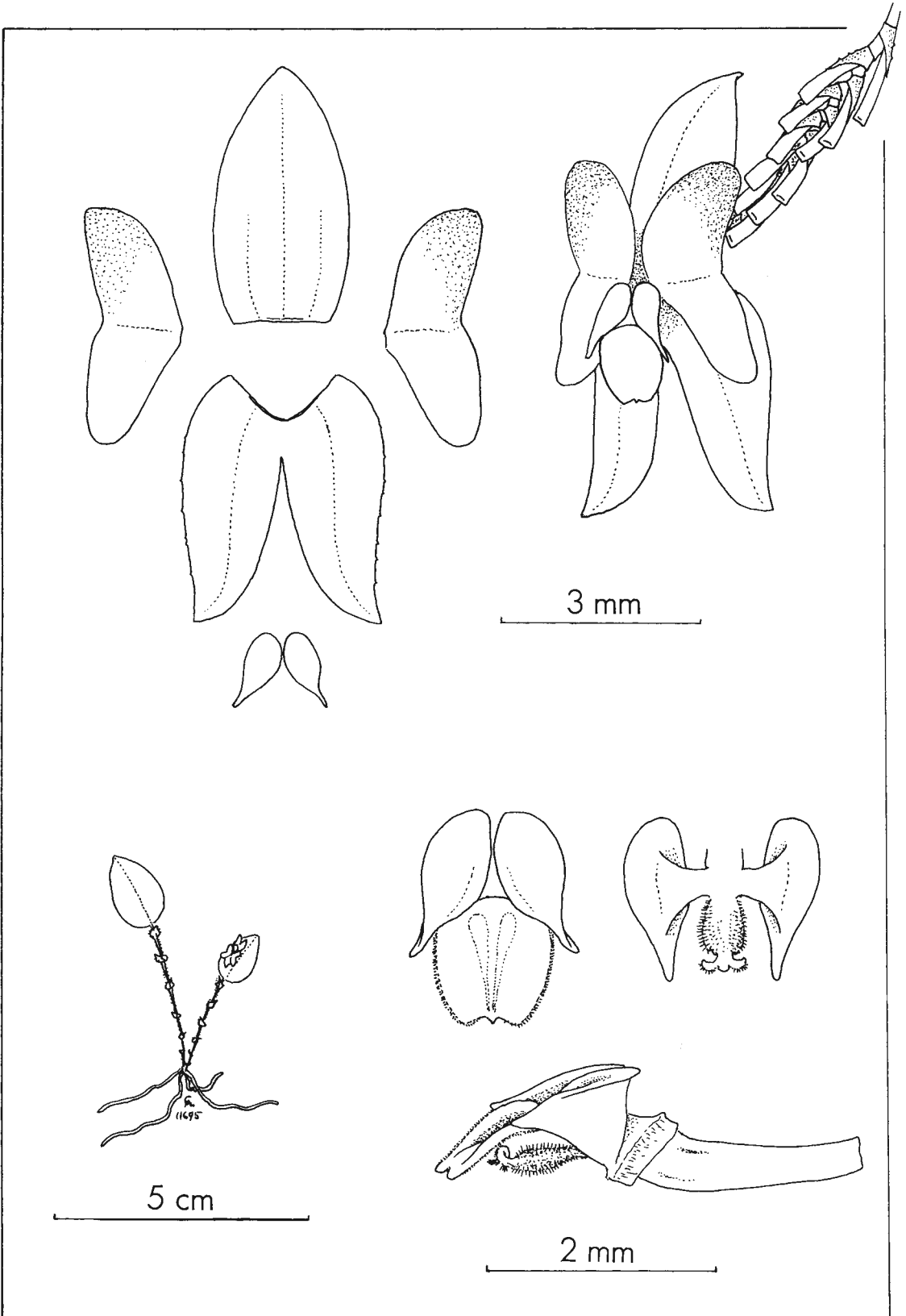


Lepanthes meganthera Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio ovato brevior, sepalis ovatis subacutis, petalis transverse oblongis obtusis, labello bilaminato, laminis glabris ovatis acuminatis, appendice grandi pubescenti oblonga apice triglandulosa, columna clavata, anthera grandissima.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1.5-3 cm long, enclosed by 7-8 coarsely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, with purple veins, ovate, subacute, 10-15 mm long, 7-9 mm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested, successively several-flowered raceme up to 3 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 3-5 mm long; floral bract 0.75 mm long, microscopically sparsely spiculate; pedicel 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals yellow, the dorsal sepal elliptical, subacute, 4.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblong, oblique, subacute, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm, microscopically subdentate; petals orange, suffused with darker orange on the margins, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lobes oblong, oblique ob-



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tuse, the upper slightly longer than the lower; lip bilaminate, orange, the laminae ovate, glabrous, acuminate at the apices, 1.5 mm long, connectives cuneate, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse with a large, oblong, pubescent appendix with a trilobed terminal gland; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, the stigma equally large, ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *meganthera*, "with a large anther," referring to the proportionately very large anther.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of Loja: epiphytic in cloud forest south of Yangana, alt. 2450 m, May 1985, A. Hirtz 2569 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 11695.

This small species is not particularly remarkable except for the lip and column. The blades of the lip are glabrous, ovate, and acuminate. The appendix is proportionately large, oblong, and pubescent, with a trilobed gland at the apex. The appendix is held beneath the large stigmatic surface that occupies the area below the large clinandrium. The anther is larger than the blades of the lip.