Lepanthes mentosa Luer, sp. nov.

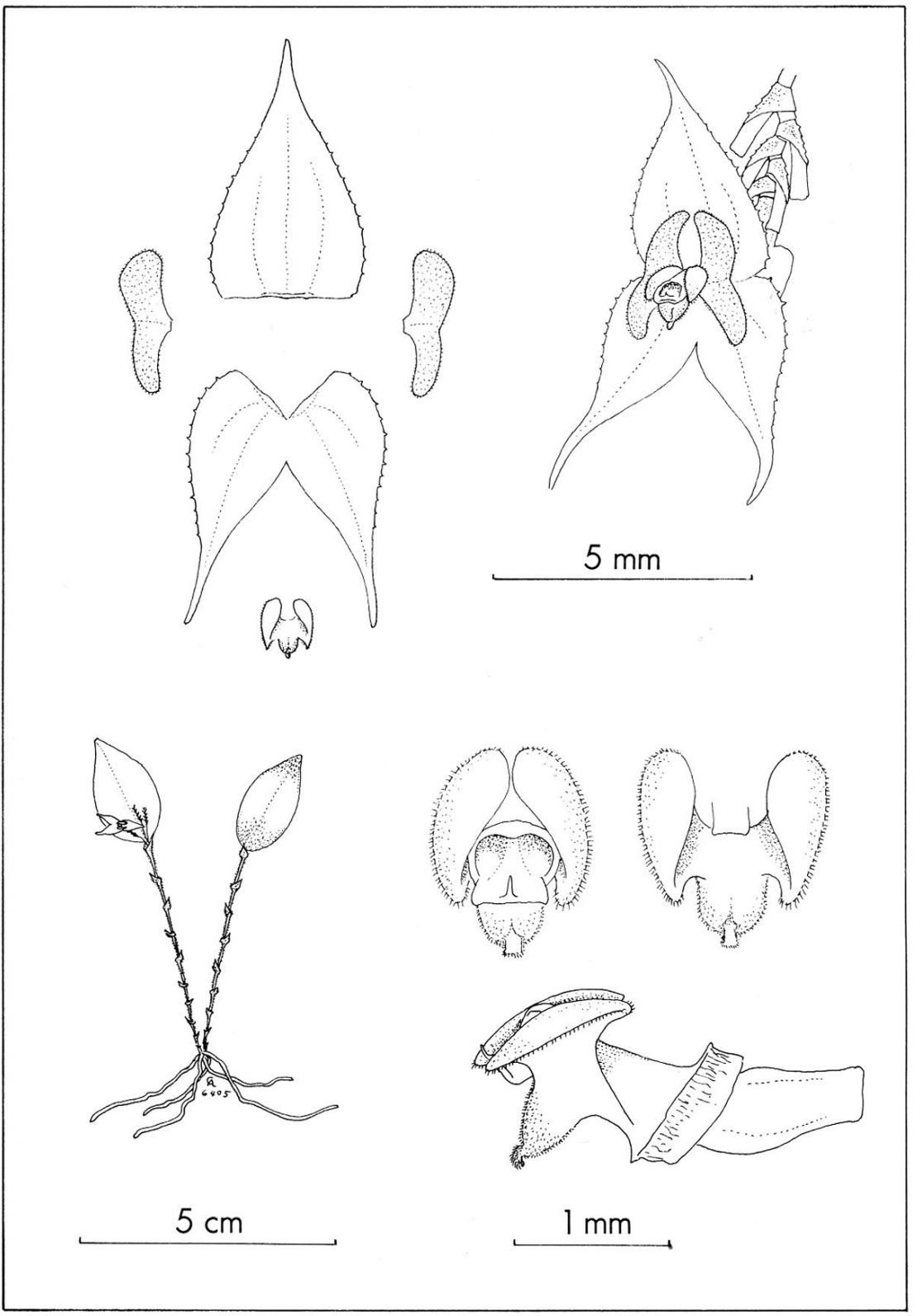
Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta disticha folio ovato breviore, sepalis ovatis acutis acuminatis sparsim denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobatis, lobis oblongis obtusis, labelli laminis ovatis, corpore crasso protuberanti mentoso, appendice parva oblonga.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1.5-4 cm long, enclosed by 4-7 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute, 15-23 mm long, 9-13 mm wide, the base broadly cuneate into a petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 4 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 4 mm long; floral bracts 1.5 mm long, muriculate; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals yellow, ovate, carinate-spiculate, with sparsely denticulate margins, acute, acuminate, the dorsal sepal concave, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide unspread, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 0.75 mm; petals orange suffused with red, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, the lobes oblong with rounded ends, the upper lobe slightly larger; lip red-orange, bilaminate, minutely pubescent, the blades ovate, acute, 1 mm long, the connectives broadly oblong, connate to the base of the column, the body thick, protuberant, bearing the small, oblong appendix at the apex; column 1 mm long, the anther and the stigma subapical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *mentosus*, "with a big chin," referring to the protuberant body of the lip.

TYPE: *COSTA RICA*: Prov. of Puntarenas: epiphytic in forest along the approach to the Monteverde Forest Preserve, alt. 1400 m, 24 June 1981, *C. Luer & A. Luer 6405* (Holotype: SEL).

This species is related to the frequent and variable *L. acostaei* Schltr., but *L. mentosa* is easily distinguished by the large, thick, protruding body of the lip beneath the column. The appendix, a small, oblong organ, is borne at the apex of this chin from the body of the lip.



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