

Lepanthes mollis Luer, sp. nov. TYPE: Panama.

Chiriquí: epiphytic in forest, Cerro Colorado, alt. 1500 m, 15 Feb. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. & K. Dressler 10532 (Holotype: MO). FIGURE 12.

Planta mediocris mollis, racemo congesto folio elliptico tenui acuminato brevior, sepalis obtusis, petalorum lobis triangularibus, labelli laminis ovatis corpore lato, appendice parva apice biglandulosa.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** slender, erect, 4–9 cm long, enclosed by 10–11 scabrous lepanthiform sheaths with dilated, long-acuminate ostia. **Leaf** erect to suberect, thin, subcoriaceous, ovate-elliptical, acute, acuminate, 2.5–4.5 cm long, 1.3–2 cm wide, the cuneate-rounded base contracted into a petiole 1–1.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 9–20 mm long; floral bracts 1.5 mm long, minutely muriculate; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals yellow, ovate, carinate, acute to obtuse, the dorsal sepal 2.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 2.25 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, connate 1 mm; petals orange, microscopically cellular, transversely bilobed, 0.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, the lobes triangular, acute, the upper lobe slightly larger; lip rose, glabrous (microscopically cellular), bilaminiate, with the blades ovate with the ends subacute, 1.25 mm long, the connectives broadly oblong, the body broad, connate to the base of the col-

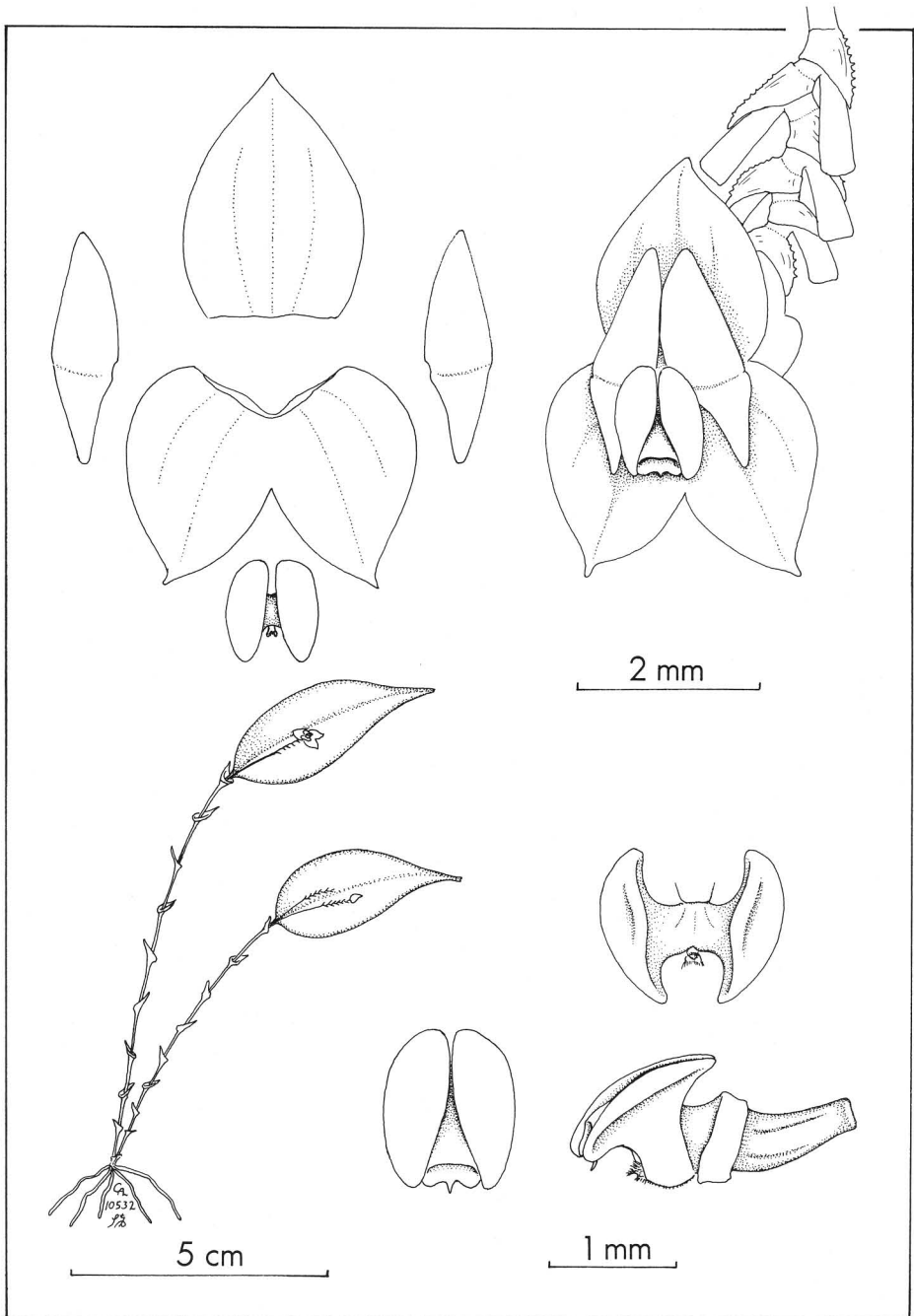


FIGURE 12. *Lepanthes mollis*.

tinguished by the congested raceme shorter than the soft, elliptical, acuminate leaf upon which it is borne. The sepals are obtuse, the lobes of the petals are acute, and the blades of the lip are ovate and borne by broad connec-

tives. The appendix is minute, ovoid and biglandular.