

124. **LEPANTHES NICOLASII** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris grandisve, racemo congesto disticho cum pedunculo elongato pendenti, flore grandi, ovario longissimo, sepalis acutis intus microscopice pubescentibus, petalis transversis, lobo superiore anguste triangulari, lobo inferiore uncinato, labelli laminis anguste ovatis apicibus angustissime non-tectis, connectivis latis brevibus cum appendice bilobulata pubescenti.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Jardín, between Jardín and Quebrada La Cifuentes, alt. 2000 m, collected by N. Pelaez, Jan. 1993, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, Feb. 1994, *R. Escobar 5452* (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17155.

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada en honor de Nicolás Peláez de Medellín, Colombia, entusiasta estudiante de orquídeas, quien descubrió la especie.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Nicolas Pelaez of Medellín, Colombia, enthusiastic student of orchids, who discovered this species.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Rami-cauls slender, erect, 8-18 cm long, enclosed 12-14 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, elliptical-oblong, acute, lightly acuminate, 5-11 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, the base rounded or broadly cuneate into a petiole 2-4 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme, up to 30 mm long, borne by a pendent, filiform peduncle 25-35 mm long; floral bracts oblique, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 8.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, carinate, microscopically pubescent within, with microscopically ciliate margins, the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, acute, 9.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, lightly short-acuminate, connate 4.5 mm into a bifid lamina, 9.5 mm long, 8 mm wide, each 2-veined; **petals** orange with the outer margin red, microscopically cellular-pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 7 mm wide, the lobes narrowly triangular, acute, with the lower lobe uncinately recurved;

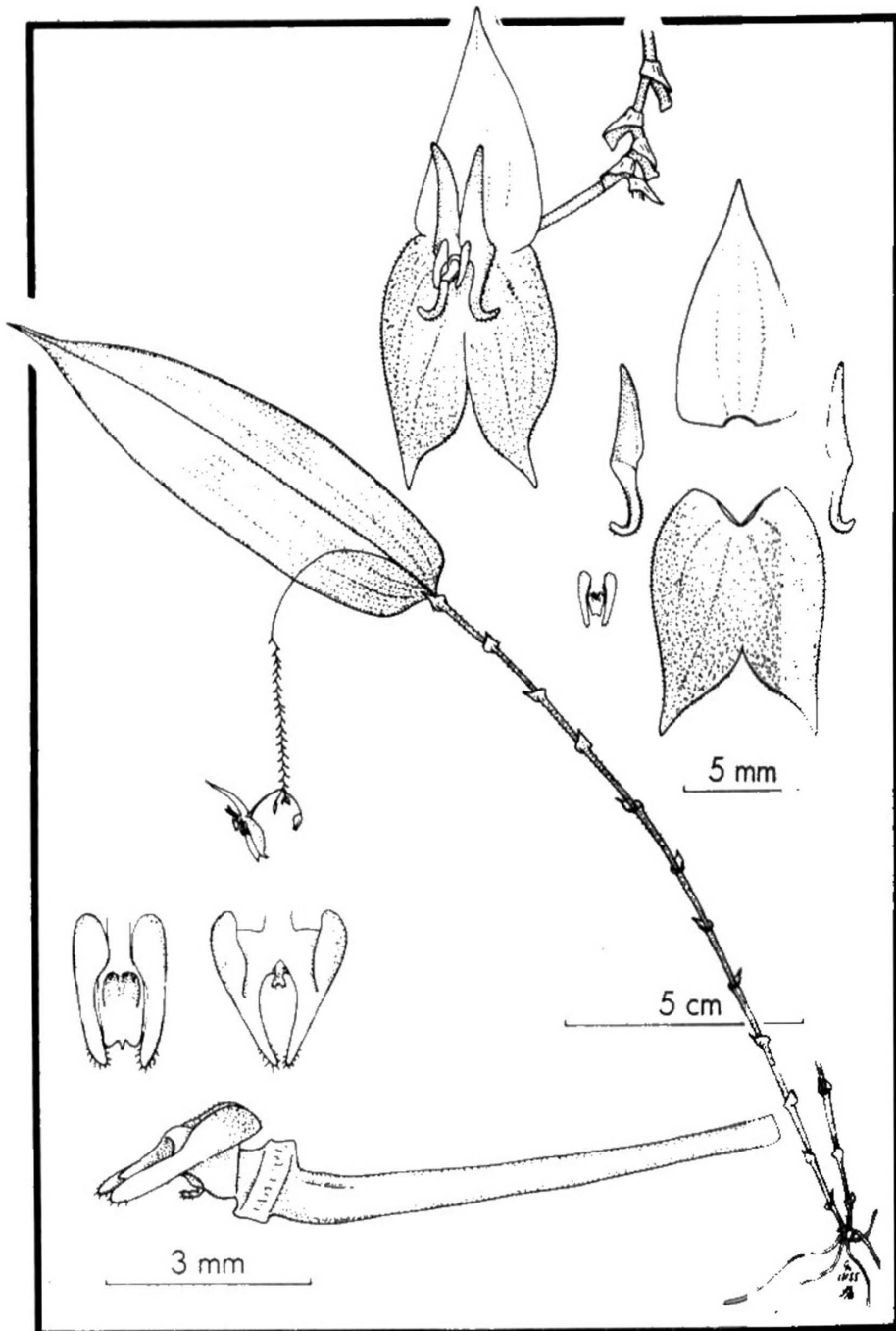
lip red-purple, bilaminar, microscopically pubescent, sparsely ciliate at the apices, the blades ovate with the narrow lamina developed only below the middle, narrowly triangular above the middle, 2.2 mm long, the connectives broad, short, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, with the appendix small, bilobulate, pubescent; column stout, 1 mm long, the anther apical and the stigma ventral.

Esta especie, cultivada en Colomborquídeas, se conoce únicamente de una colecta en la Cordillera Central de Colombia. El atestado racimo péndulo nace de un alargado, arqueado y delgado pedúnculo por detrás de la hoja. Las grandes flores están sostenidas por ovarios alargados. Los sépalos son transversos con el lóbulo superior angostamente triangular y el inferior uncinado; las láminas del labelo son angostamente ovadas y desarrolladas únicamente por debajo del centro con las mitades distales nada más que angostamente triangulares. El apéndice es diminuto y bilobulado.

This species is known only from a collection in the Central Cordillera of Colombia and cultivated at Colomborquídeas. The congested raceme is pendent, borne by a slender, elongated, arching peduncle from beneath the leaf. The large flowers are held out on elongated ovaries. The sepals are microscopically pubescent; the petals are transverse with the upper lobe narrowly triangular and the lower uncinately; the lobes of the lip are narrowly ovate with the lamina developed only below the middle with the distal halves merely narrowly triangular. The appendix is minute and bilobulate.



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