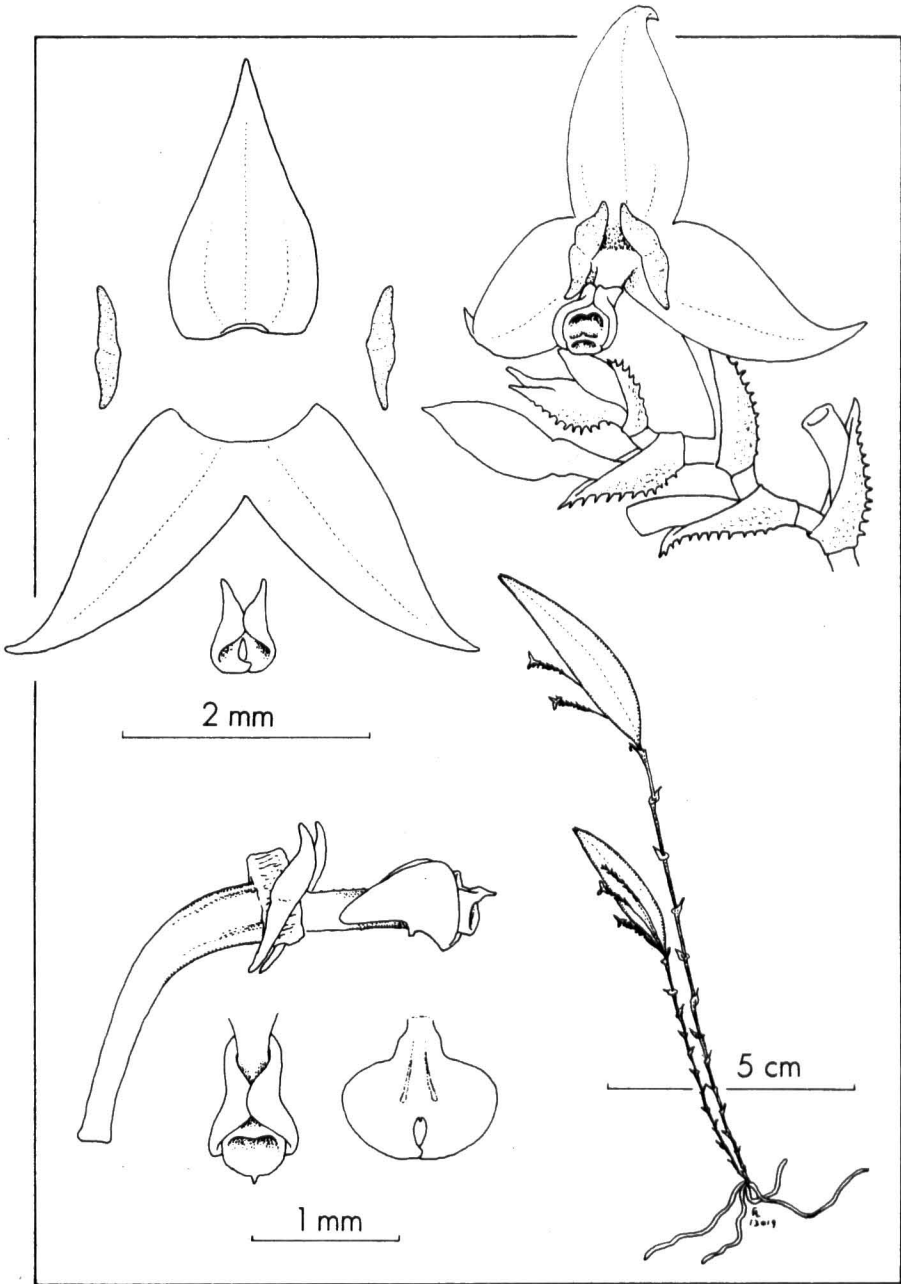


*Lepanthes niphas* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio anguste ovato brevior, floribus minutis albis, sepalis ovatis integris, petalis transverse bilobatis, lobis anguste triangularibus obtusis, labello bilobato lobis semiorbiculatis columnam amplectentibus, appendice minuta apiculata.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 4-9 cm long, enclosed by 12-15 microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, 3.5-5 cm long, 9-11 mm wide the base cuneate into a petiole 1-2 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous successively many-flowered raceme up to 15 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 5-20 mm long; floral bracts spiculate, 1 mm long; pedicels 1.25 mm long; ovary 2.25 mm long; sepals white, entire, the dorsal sepal ovate,



*Lepanthes niphas* Luer & Escobar

acute, 2.25 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.25 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, diverging, acute, 2.25 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 1 mm; petals white, cellular-glandular, transversely bilobed, 0.2 mm long, 1 mm wide, the lobes subequal, narrowly triangular, obtuse; lip white, cellular-glandular, bilobed, the lobes semi-orbicular, rounded, embracing the column, cleft anteriorly with a minute apiculum in the sinus, 0.8 mm long, 1 mm wide expanded, connate to the column between the outer and middle thirds, column erect, cylindrical-clavate, 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

**Etymology:** From the Greek *niphas*, "a snowflake," referring to the tiny, crystalline flowers.

**COLOMBIA:** Dept. of Antioquia: without exact locality, collected by E. Valencia, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas 6 Apr. 1988, *C. Luer 13019* (Holotype: MO, Isotype: JAUM).

This little species is characterized by minute, crystalline white flowers borne behind an erect, narrowly ovate leaf; entire, ovate sepals; minute transverse petals; and an erect, cylindrical column embraced by the rounded lobes of a shorter, bilobed lip. Unfortunately, the exact collection data has been lost.