

LEPANTHES NOELII Luer & Behar, sp. nov.

Planta parva racemo subcongesto folio elliptico brevior, sepalis acutis lateralibus infra medium connatis, petalis transversis convexis, lobo supe-

(*) Research Associate Missouri Botanical Garden. Home: 3222 Old Oak Drive, Sarasota, Florida 34239 U.S.A.

(*) Investigador Asociado Missouri Botanical Garden. Residencia: 3222 Old Oak Drive, Sarasota, Florida 34239 U.S.A.



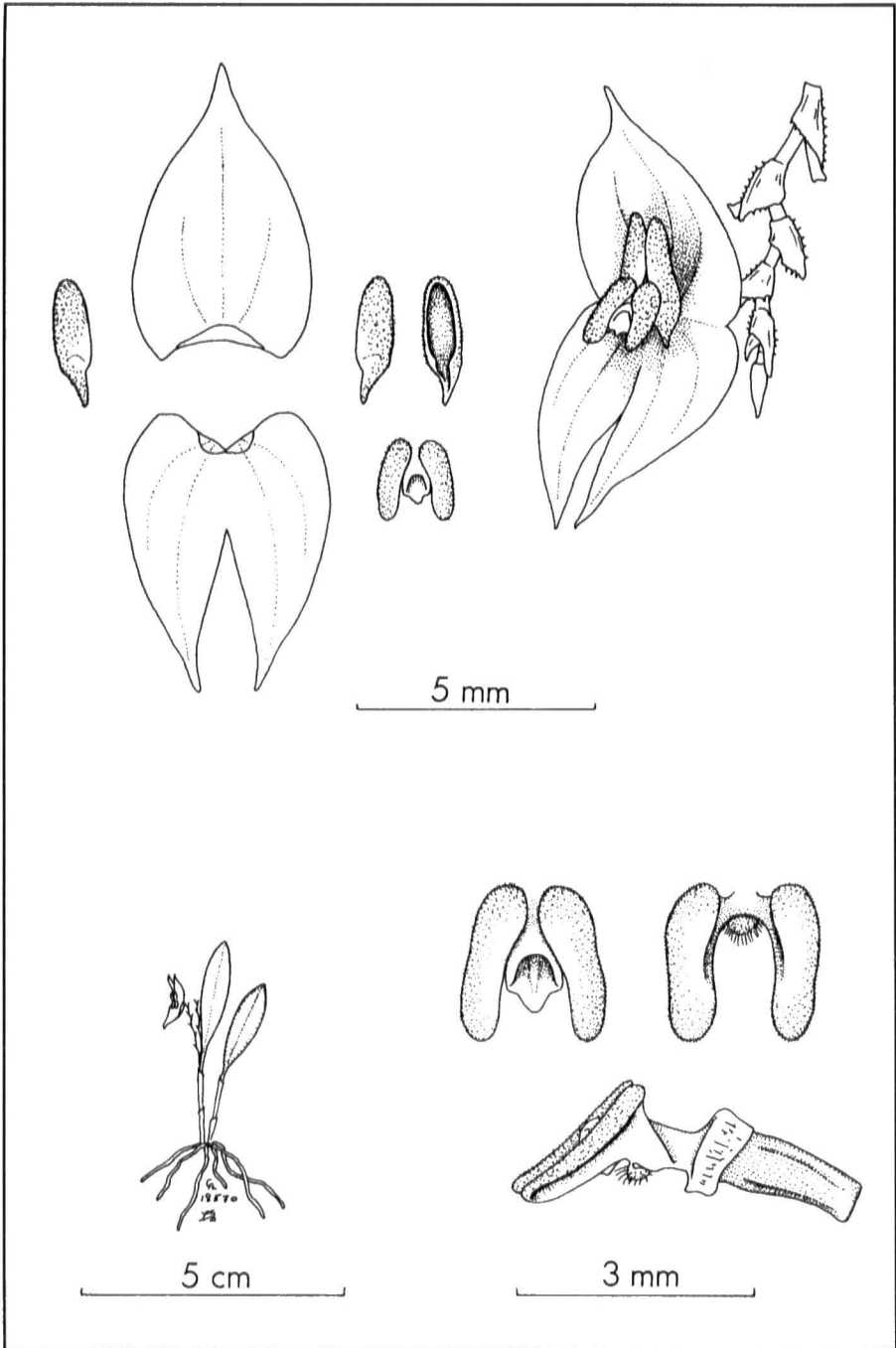
Lepanthes noelii

Luer & Behar

riore oblongo, lobo inferiore multiminore acuto, labelli laminis oblongis convexis, appendice semiorbiculata pubescenti.

TYPE: GUATEMALA. Dept. of Alta Verapaz: near Purulha, collected by Noel Cruz Ch., flowered in cultivation, Aug. 1977, by M. Behar 142 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 18580.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 25 mm long, enclosed by 3-4 closely fitting, microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 25 mm long, 6 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a subcongested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 5-6 mm long; floral bracts minutely muricate, 1 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.25 mm long; **sepals** red-orange, glabrous, carinate, with the margins microscopically irregular, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute,



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shortly acuminate, concave, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 2 mm; **petals** red, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, convex, the upper lobe oblong, rounded at the apex, 1.5 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, the lower lobe triangular, oblique, acute, 0.5 mm long, 0.75 mm wide; **lip** red, bilaminar, the blades glabrous (microscopically cellular-pubescent), oblong, convex, rounded at both ends, 2 mm long, the connectives short, from the bases of the blades, the body narrow, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, filled with a semiorbicular, pubescent appendix; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Noel Cruz Chavarria of Purulha, Guatemala, who discovered this species.

ETIMOLOGÍA: Dedicada a Noel Cruz Chavarría, de Purulha, Guatemala, descubridor de la especie.

This little species is superficially similar to many others, differing in a combination of details. The inflorescence is a subcongested raceme shorter than the elliptical leaf; the sepals are red-orange and acute; the petals are red, transverse and convex with the lower lobe triangular and acute, much smaller than the oblong upper lobe; the blades of the lip are oblong and convex with the connectives at the base; and the appendix is rounded and pubescent, filling the sinus.

Esta pequeña especie se parece superficialmente a muchas otras, distinguiéndose de ellas en un conjunto de detalles. La inflorescencia se presenta en racimo subdensifloro, más corto que la hoja elíptica; los sépalos son agudos, de color rojo-anaranjado; los pétalos son rojos, transversos, convexos, con el lóbulo inferior triangular, agudo, y mucho más pequeño que el lóbulo superior, que se presenta oblongo; las láminas del labelo son oblongas, convexas, con las conectivas en la base; el apéndice es redondeado, pubescente, y llena el seno.