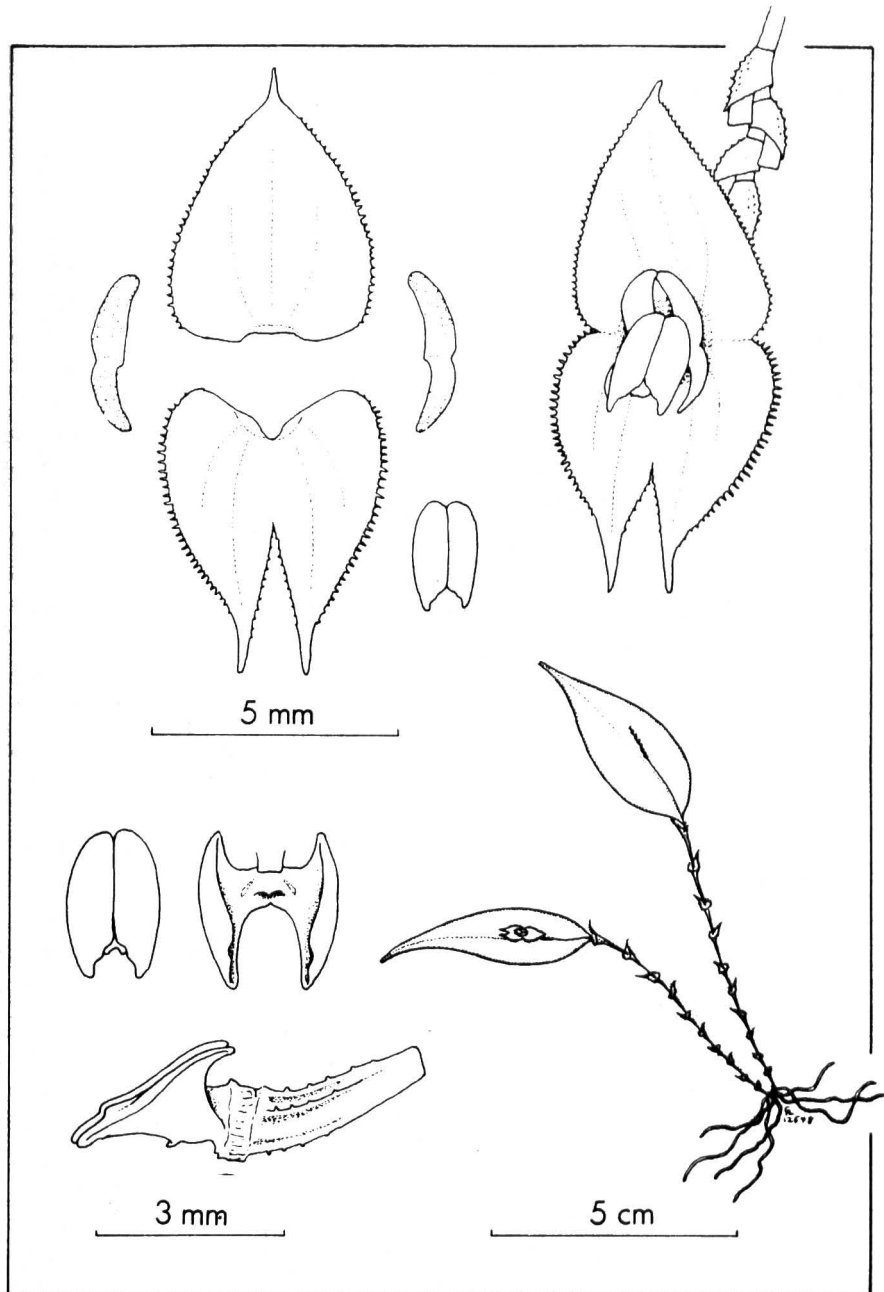


Lepanthes octavioi Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio ovato acuminato brevior, sepalis ovatis breviter acuminatis denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobatis, lobis subaequalibus oblongis obtusis leviter incurvatis, labelli lamina glabris oblongis apicibus anguste obtusis, connectivis cuneatis, corpore crasso sinu obtuso concavo, appendice externa triangulari minuta.

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Lepanthes octavioi Luer & Escobar

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls suberect to horizontal, slender, 3-6 cm long, enclosed by 9-11 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with dilated ostia. Leaf more or less horizontal, erect in relation to the ramicaul, coriaceous, ovate, acute, lightly acuminate, 3.5-5 cm long, 1.3-1.7 cm wide, the base cuneate, contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 8 mm or more long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 9-12 mm long; floral bracts 1.5 mm long, minutely echinate; pedicels 1.25 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; sepals yellow, carinate-spiculate, denticulate, ovate, subacute, the dorsal sepal 5.5 mm long, 4 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.25 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 5.75 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, connate 1.75 mm; petals yellow, transversely bilobed, cellular pubescent, 0.5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, the lobes about equal, oblong, obtuse, lightly incurved; lip dull purple, glabrous, bilaminate, the blades oblong with the apices narrowly obtuse, 2.4 mm long, the connectives cuneate, forming a thick body, connate to the base of the column, the front surface of the sinus convex beneath a minute fold, the appendix triangular, minute, on the external surface of the body; column 2 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: Named in honor of Brother Octavio Ospina of Sibundoy, Colombia, who discovered this species.

COLOMBIA: Intend. of Putumayo: epiphytic in cloud forest east of San Francisco, alt. 2100 m, 27 Jan. 1987, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & O. Ospina 12548* (Holotype: MO, Isotype: JAUM).

This species is characterized by the congested, short-pedicellate inflorescence that bears a yellow flower upon the leaf. The sepals are ovate, shortly acuminate and denticulate; the petals are small and narrowly transversely oblong; the blades of the lip cover the column, the sinus of the body of the lip is thick and shallowly concave on the front surface below a small, transverse flap between the connectives; and the appendix is merely a minute triangle on the external surface of the body.