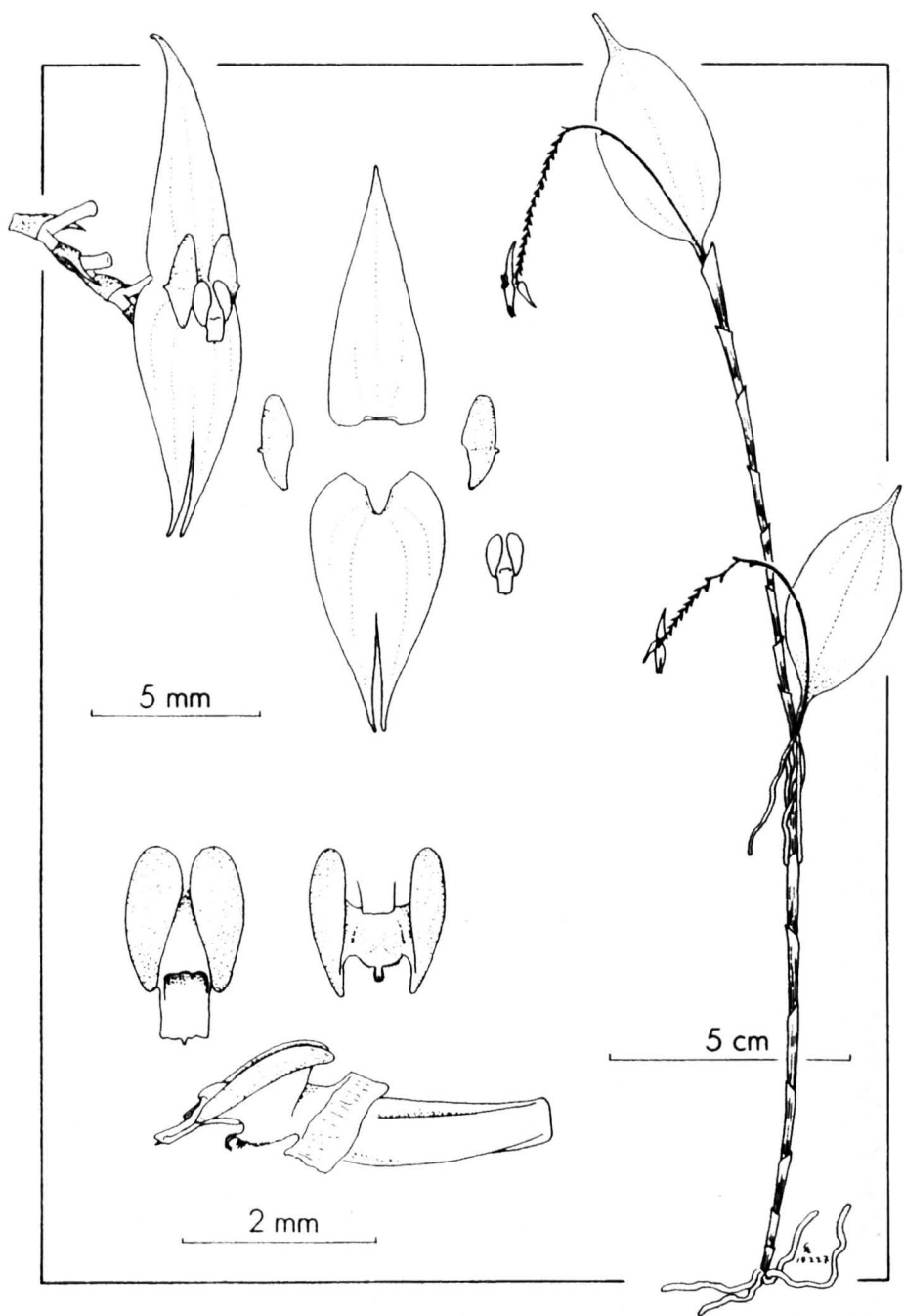


Lepanthes oreibates Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta magna proliferans, inflorescentia racemosa congesta plus minusve pendens folio elliptico breviter acuminato leviter longiore, sepalis ovatis acutis integris, petalis transverse bilobis, lobis triangularibus obtusis lobo superiore leviter majore, labelli laminis ovatis, connectivis latis, appendice minuta pubescenti apice bilobulata.

Plant relatively large, epiphytic, caespitose and prolific; roots slender. Ramicauls stout, erect, often producing another ramicaul at the apex, 5-18 cm long, enclosed by 6-12 light brown, minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, shortly acuminate, 3.5-6 cm long, 1.7-2.5 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 5-7 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively many-flowered raceme up to 4 cm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 3-4 cm long; floral bract 2-3 mm long; pedicel 2-2.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals translucent light yellowish tan, entire, ovate, acute, carinate, the dorsal sepal 9 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 8.5 mm long, connate 3 mm, 4.5 mm wide together, each 2-veined; petals red with purple margin, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lobes triangular with obtuse apices; lip purple, bilaminate, the blades microscopically pubescent, ovate, the apices narrowly rounded, the bases rounded, 1.5 mm long, the connectives broad, cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base the



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column, the appendix small, pubescent, oblong, bilobulate; column stout, 1.75 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek *oreibates*, "a mountain climber", referring to the prolific habit.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Cundinamarca: epiphytic in cloud forest, Alto de Gutierrez, alt. 2960 m, collected by R. Escobar in 1987, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 18 Mar. 1989, C. Luer 14227 (Holotype: MO, Isotype: JAUM).

This species differs from the other known species with a prolific habit in the combination of the following criteria: the large habit; the more or less decurving, congested inflorescence; the narrowly ovate sepals; the bilaminar lip with the clinandrium from between the apices; and a minute, bifid appendix. The raceme is borne by a slender peduncle about half as long as the leaf. The elongating raceme eventually reaches the length of the leaf, but it usually droops over to the side of the leaf.



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Photograph: Sebastián Vieira U.
Grower: Colomborquídeas.