

Lepanthes ova-rajae Luer, sp. nov.

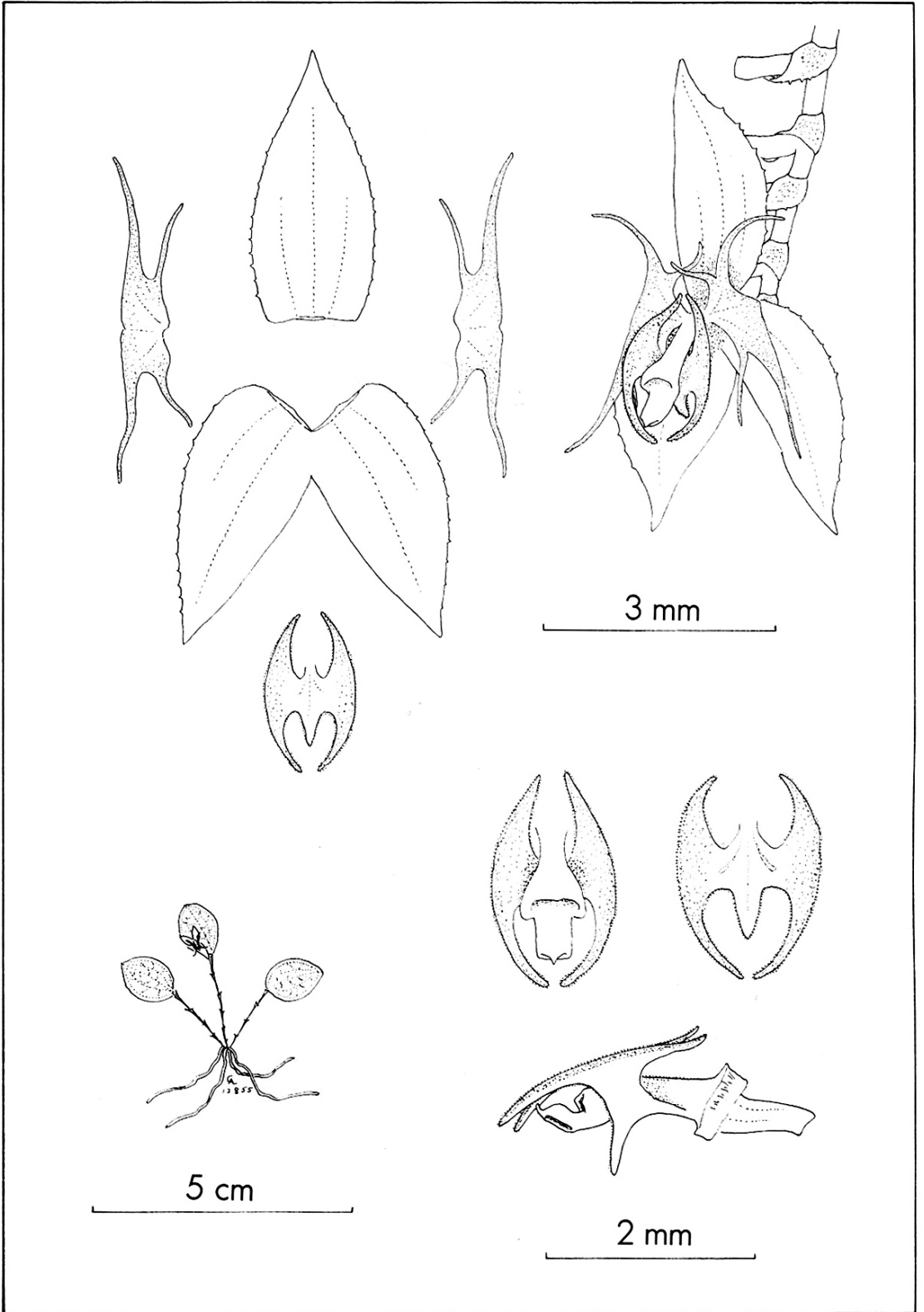
Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa pauciflora folio ovato reticulato brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobis bifurcatis, labello transverse bilobo, lobis anguste lunatis, appendice triangulari.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect to suberect, slender, 1-2.5 cm long, enclosed by 5 or 6 microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, prominently reticulated, thinly coriaceous, elliptical-ovate, subacute to obtuse, 9-11 mm long, 8-9 mm wide, the rounded to cuneate base contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, secund, successively few-flowered raceme up to 4 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 3-6 mm long; floral bracts minutely muriculate, 1 mm long; pedicels 1.25 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; sepals yellow, suffused with rose centrally, carinate, minutely and sparsely denticulate, ovate, acute, the dorsal sepal 3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.75 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm; petals yellow, rose basally, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.5 mm long, 4 mm wide, the lobes similar, each bifurcated into a pair of filaments; lip rose, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, the blades narrowly lunate, with acute, attenuate ends, 2 mm long, the connectives shortly oblong, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the appendix narrowly triangular, 0.5 mm long; column 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *ova*, "eggs," and *Raja*, the genus of the skates, in allusion to the resemblance of the petals to the egg cases of the skate.

TYPE: *COSTA RICA*: without locality, collected by Leon Glicenstein, flowered in cultivation by P. Jesup & A. Jesup in Bristol, CT., 26 April 1987, *C. Luer 12855* (Holotype: MO).

This species is characterized by the small, remarkably reticulate leaves very similar to those of *L. posthon* with which it grows intermixed. The bifurcated petals of both species are similar except



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