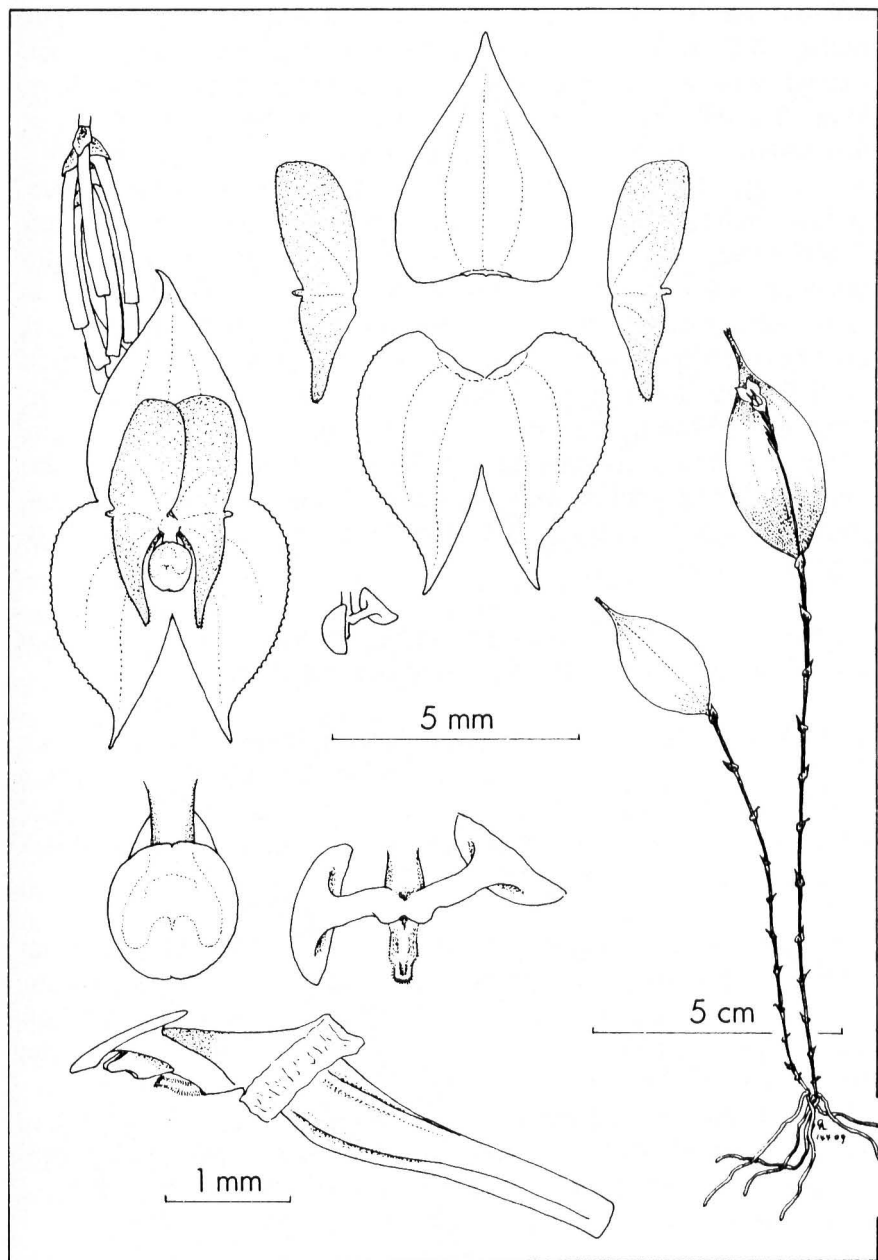


*Lepanthes parmata* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa longipedunculata congesta folio elliptico breviter acuminato brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis, petalis transverse bilobatis trinervis minute pubescentibus cum lobulo marginali, lobo superiore oblongo, lobo inferiore triangulari brevior, labelli laminis in laminam circulari tenui connatis, connectives angustis, appendice membranacea oblonga pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fine. Ramicauls erect, slender, 7-12 cm long, enclosed by 11-14, minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, subacute, shortly acuminate, 4-5 cm long, 1.5-2.2 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested, successively many-flowered raceme up to 15 mm long, borne



*Lepanthes parmata* Luer & Escobar

behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 25-30 mm long; floral bracts 0.5 mm long, pedicels 3-4 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; sepals yellow, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.75 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, minutely denticulate, 5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm, 2-veined; petals yellow, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, with a small lobule on the outer margin between the lobes, the upper lobe oblong, subtruncate, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, obtuse; lip green, bilaminiate, the blades glabrous, very thin, lunate the two blades connate medially over the column to form a thin, circular blade, 1 mm long and broad, the connectives narrow, elongate, barely forming a body, connate to the base of the column, the sinus thickened and retuse with an oblong, membranous, pubescent appendix; column stout, 1.5 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *paratus*, "armed with a small, light shield," in allusion to the thin, rounded blade of the lip.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Parque Nacional Natural "Las Orquideas," road from Venados above Carauta, right bank of Río Venados, alt. 1300-1350 m, 15 Feb. 1989, A. Cogollo, D. Cárdenas, F. Ramírez & O. Alvarez 4044 (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 14409.

This species is characterized by the elliptical, shortly acuminate leaves suffused with purple; a longpedicellate, congested raceme borne by a long peduncle; ovate, acute sepals; and bilobed petals with a minute lobule on the outer margin. Most remarkable is the small lip with the thin blades connate into a circular lamina supported above the column by a pair of long, narrow connectives. The appendix is membranous and oblong. Relatives include *Lepanthes mucronata* Lindl. and *L. agglutinata* Luer.