

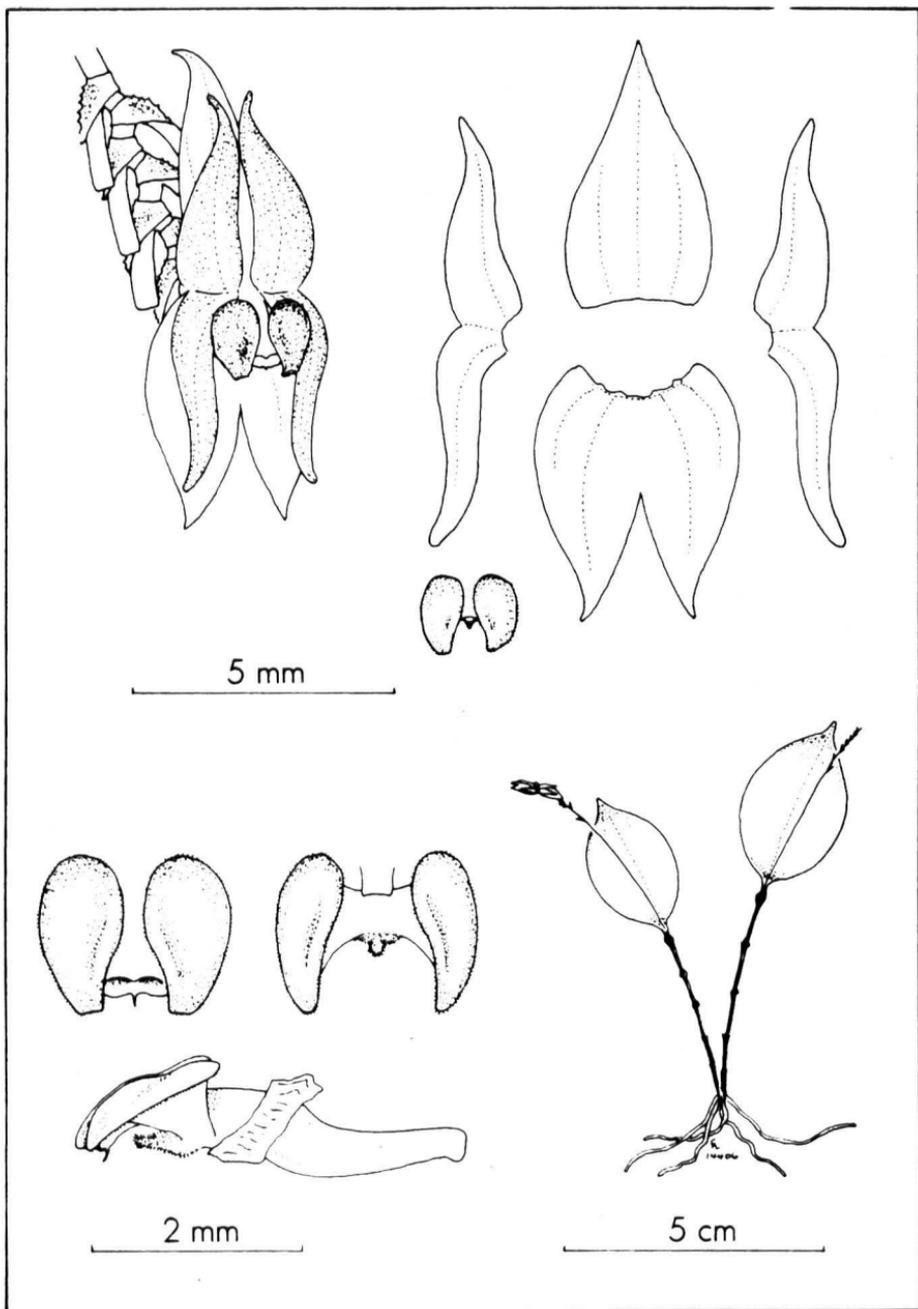
*Lepanthes petalolenta* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva mediocrisve caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa longipedunculata congesta folio elliptico breviter acuminato plerumque longiore, sepalis ovatis acutis, petalis ingentibus transverse bilobatis trinervis microscopicè pubescentibus, labelli lamina ovatis microscopicè pubescentibus, lobis anguste triangularibus, appendice crassa oblonga pubescenti.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fine. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2-4.5 cm long, enclosed by 6-7 blackish, non-dilated, minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, shortly acuminate, 2-3.5 cm long, 1.3-2 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 3 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested (more or less loose when beginning), successively many-flowered raceme up to at least 5 mm long, borne along the back surface of the leaf and usually surpassing the leaf by a slender peduncle 25-35 mm long; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicels 2-3 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals yellow, entire, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.75 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 2 mm, 2-veined; petals yellow, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1.5 mm long, 8.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lobes narrowly triangular, narrowly obtuse, about equal in length; lip purple, minutely pubescent, bilaminar, the blades ovate, with the apices subtruncate, the bases rounded, 1.5 mm long, the connectives cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus thickened and pubescent with an oblong, pubescent appendix; column stout, 1.5 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *petalus* and *-olentus*, "with petals markedly developed," referring to the proportionately large petals.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Parque Nacional Natural "Las Orquideas," quebrada El Guaguo, alt. 1390-1420 m, 12 Feb. 1989, A. Cogollo, D. Cárdenas & O. Alvarez 3907 (Holotype: JAUM; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 14406; same area, alt. 1240



*Lepanthes petalolenta* Luer & Escobar

m, 29 May 1988, A. Cogollo & J. Ramírez 3051, 3046 (JAUM, MO).

This species is characterized by the elliptical, shortly acuminate leaves and congested raceme borne by a long peduncle that usually lifts the raceme beyond the apex of the leaf. Most remarkable are the flowers with proportionately large petals. They are nearly as long as the length of the flower, that is, the dorsal and lateral sepals combined. The sepals and lip are not remarkable; the appendix is small, oblong, short and pubescent.