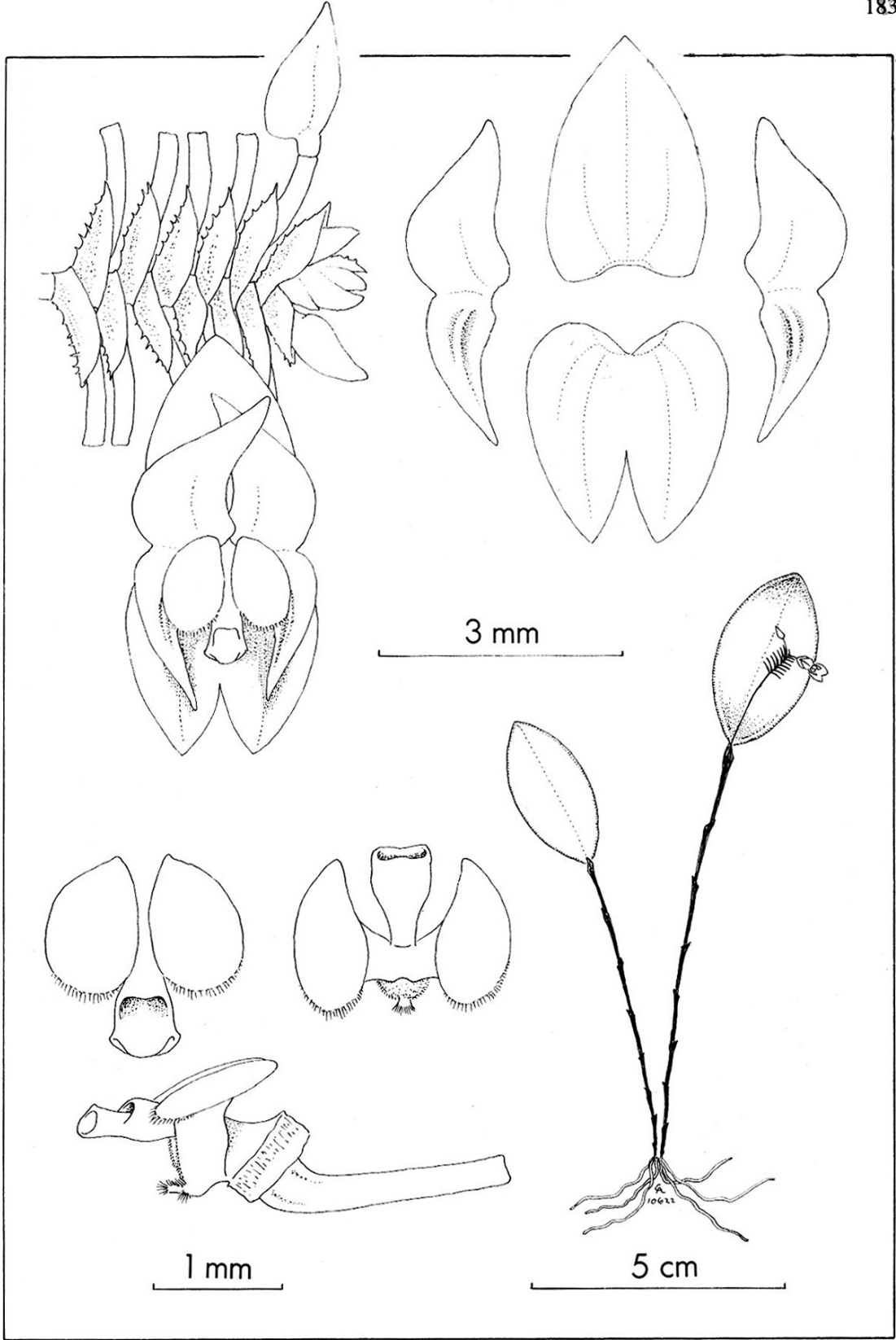


**Lepanthes pexa** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima foliis ellipticis subacutis brevibus, sepalis ovatis subacutis, petalis grandibus transverse lobatis, lobo superiore oblique ovato acuto, lobo inferiore simili subcarinato, labelli laminae late ellipticae apicibus ciliatis columna brevioribus, corpore oblongo, appendice extus oblonga pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 4-9 cm long, enclosed by 5-10 blackish, closely appressed, microscopically ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, 2-4.5 cm long, 1.1-2 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform pedun-



*Lepanthes pexa* Lucr

cle 10-18 mm long; floral bracts 1.5-2 mm long, echinate; pedicels 2-2.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals light yellow-green, carinate, ovate, subacute, entire, the dorsal sepal 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 2.75 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; petals orange bordered in red, microscopically cellular-glandular, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined, the upper lobe ovate, oblique, acute, the lower lobe similar, subcarinate on the surface along the vein; lip rose, bilaminate, the blades suborbicular to broadly elliptical, with rounded ends, the apices ciliate, 1.1 mm long, the connectives narrowly oblong, forming a narrow body, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, the appendix external, oblong, pubescent; column 1.5 mm long, protruding beyond the lip, the anther dorsal, the stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *pexus*, "combed," referring to the appearance of the densely distichous rachis.

TYPE: PANAMA: Prov. of Bocas del Toro: epiphytic in cloud forest between Fortuna and Chiriquí Grande, alt. 1000 m, 17 Feb. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. L. Dressler & K. Dressler 10622 (Holotype: MO); Prov. of Chiriquí: epiphytic in forest

near the Fortuna Dam, alt. 1100 m, 16 Feb. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. L. Dressler & K. Dressler 10586 (MO); Prov. of Coclé: epiphytic in cloud forest above El Valle, alt. 900 m, 20 Feb. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. L. Dressler & K. Dressler 10637 (MO).

Although superficially similar to *L. turalvae*, this relatively frequent species is easily identified by the carina along the vein on the lower lobe of the petal. The apices of the larger upper lobes are more or less pointed, sometimes overlapping. The blades of the lip are rounded and ciliate, and the apex of the column protrudes from between them.

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