

No. 101 - ***LEPANTHES PLEUROTHALLOPSIS*** Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa longissima laxa multiflora folio multilongiore, floribus grandibus nonresupinatis, sepalis rubro striatis anguste ovatis acuminatis, petalis transverse lobatis, labelli laminis oblongis ciliatis, appendice triangulari concava.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3.5-6 cm long, enclosed by 5-6 coarsely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 2.5-4 cm long, 1-1.8 cm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 2 mm long. Inflorescence a long, flexible, loose, successively many-flowered raceme, 2-3 flowers open simultaneously, up to 30 cm or more long including the peduncle 5-7 cm long, the flowers large, inconcompletely opening, non-resupinate; floral bracts 3.5 mm long; pedicels 3.5 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; sepals white with broad, red stripes, glabrous, flat, with the margins minutely erose, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, concave, 13-17 mm long, 6 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 2 mm, the lateral sepals connate 10 mm into an ovate, bifid lamina, 14-18 mm long, 6.5 mm wide, the apices acute, acuminate; petals white with red margins, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1.4 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lobes similar, triangular, with rounded apices; lip bilaminar, the blades oblong, glabrous with long ciliate margins, 2.5 mm long, with the apices lightly everted, rounded, with the blades deflexed above the middle, more or less erect toward the base, the connectives cuneate below the middle, the body connate to the base of the column, with the appendix triangular, acute, concave, hinged in the sinus; column 2 mm long, with the anther dorsal and the stigma ventral.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Quindío: Munic. of Salento, alt. 2800 m, collected by E. Valencia, Jan. 1991, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquideas, 12 Dec. 1992, *R. Escobar 5007* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 16569.

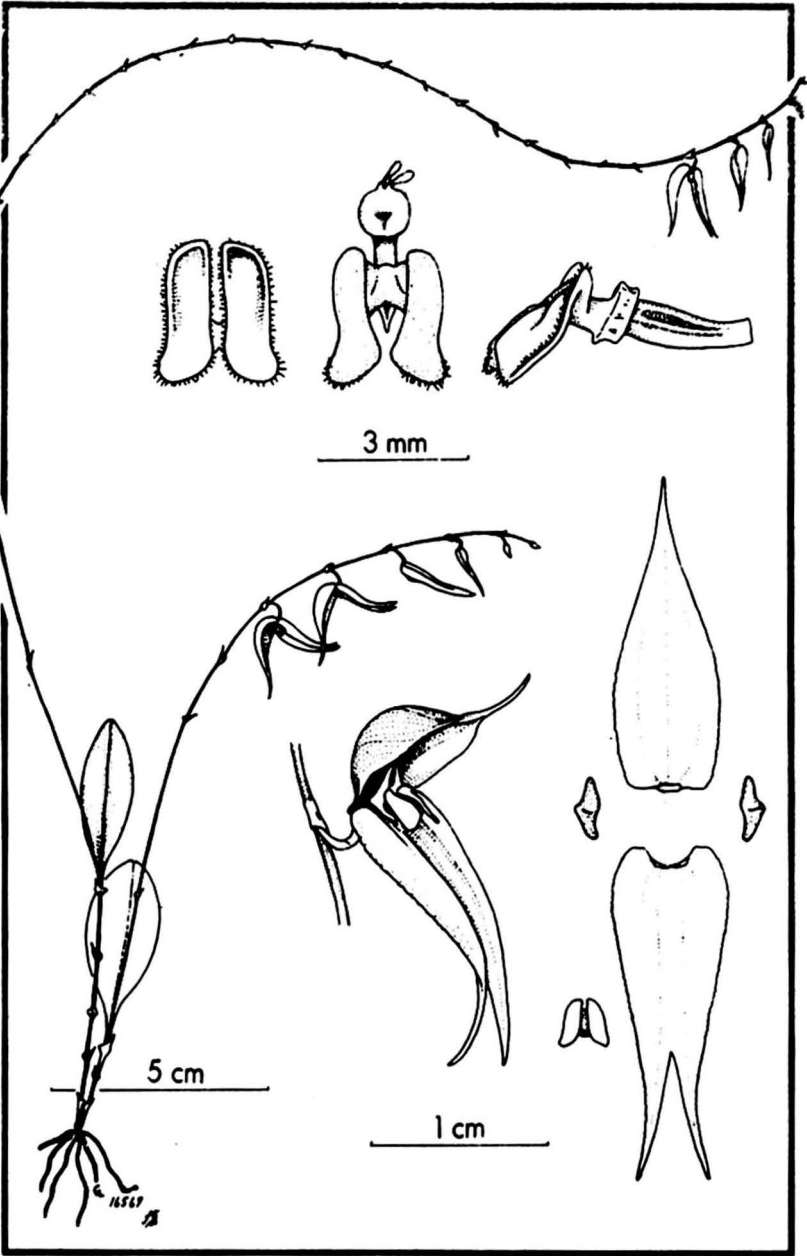
ETYMOLOGY: Named for the similarity of the plant to the genus *Pleurothallis*.

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada por el parecido con algunas especies del género *Pleurothallis*.

This remarkable species with its long raceme of large, partially open, nonresupinate flowers superficially resembles some species of *Pleurothallis*. A few of the colorful

flowers are open simultaneously as the flexible raceme gradually lengthens, reaching at least 30 centimeters. The sepals, white with conspicuous red stripes, are incompletely spreading so that the typically *Lepanthes*-like petals and lip are not easily visible, reinforcing the appearance of a *Pleurothallis*. The long, pointed, concave "dorsal sepal" is lowermost in the natural position on the rachis.

Esta notable especie, con su largo racimo de grandes flores no resupinadas y poco abiertas, tiene un parecido superficial con algunas especies de *Pleurothallis*. Varias flores vistosas permanentemente abiertas simultáneamente, a medida que el racimo flexible va creciendo para alcanzar un largo de mínimo 30 cm. Los sépalos son blancos con llamativas rayas rojas. Los pétalos y el labelo son típicos de *Lepanthes*, pero como quedan medio encerrados por los sépalos, se refuerza el parecido con una *Pleurothallis*. El "sépalos dorsal" es largo, puntudo, cóncavo y se presenta en la parte inferior de la flor en su posición natural en el raquis.



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