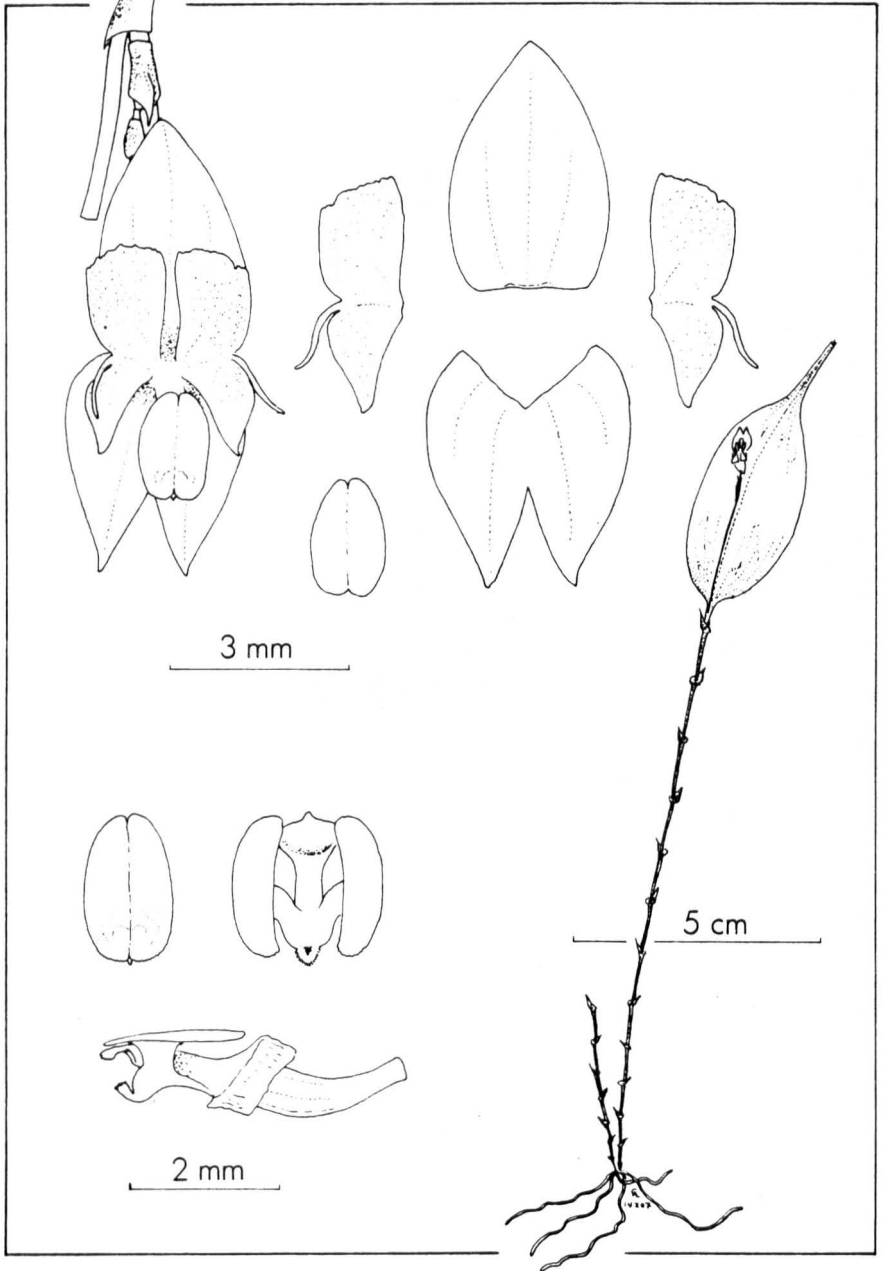


Lepanthes praemorsa Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva vel mediocris, inflorescentia racemosa congesta disticha folio elliptico apice longiacuminato brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis, petalis transverse bilobis cum lobo angustissime lineari laterali, lobo superiore oblongo truncato minute eroso, lobo inferiore triangulari acuto, labelli lamina oblongis tenuibus agglutinatis, connectivis angustis supra medium, corpore convexo, appendice triangulari crassa pubescenti.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fine. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-12 cm long, enclosed by 10-13 microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, more or less reticulate, elliptical, with the apex acute and narrowly acuminate, 2.5-6 cm long, 1-2.5 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate into a petiole 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne on the dorsum of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 5-30 mm long; floral bract 1.25 mm



Lepanthes praemorsa Luer & Escobar

long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals translucent yellow, entire, ovate, acute, the dorsal sepal 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 4 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, connate 1.25 mm, each 2-veined; petals green, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1.25 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, with a filiform lateral process 1.25 mm long, the upper lobe suboblong, truncate, the upper edge minutely erose, the lower lobe triangular, acute, shorter than the upper lobe; lip rose, bilaminar, the blades thin, cellular-erose, oblong with rounded apices and bases, 2 mm long, adherent over the column, the connectives oblong, narrow, from the anterior half of the blades, the body thick, convex, connate to the column above the base, the appendix thick, broadly triangular, convex, the apex thick, obtuse, pubescent; column slender, 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Latin *praemorsus*, "bitten off, chewed," referring to the upper margin of the broadly truncate, upper lobe of the petals.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Yarumal, epiphytic in cloud forest remnant above El Cedro, alt. 2000 m, 16 Mar. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, S. Dalström & W. Teague 14207 (Holotype: MO); same area and date, C. Luer et al. 14210 (MO).

This species is another of several that seem closely related to *Lepanthes agglutinata* Luer. *Lepanthes praemorsa*, however, is distinguished by the smaller habit; entire sepals; filiform lateral lobules of the petals; and a convex body of the lip with a short, triangular appendix.

Lepanthes praemorsa is also closely related to *L. quandi* Luer & Escobar, but the former is distinguished by the entire sepals; minutely pubescent petals with an erose upper margin; connectives of the lip that support the blades above the middle instead of below; and a short, thick appendix emerging from a protuberant body.