

**Lepanthes pygmaea** Luer, sp. nov.

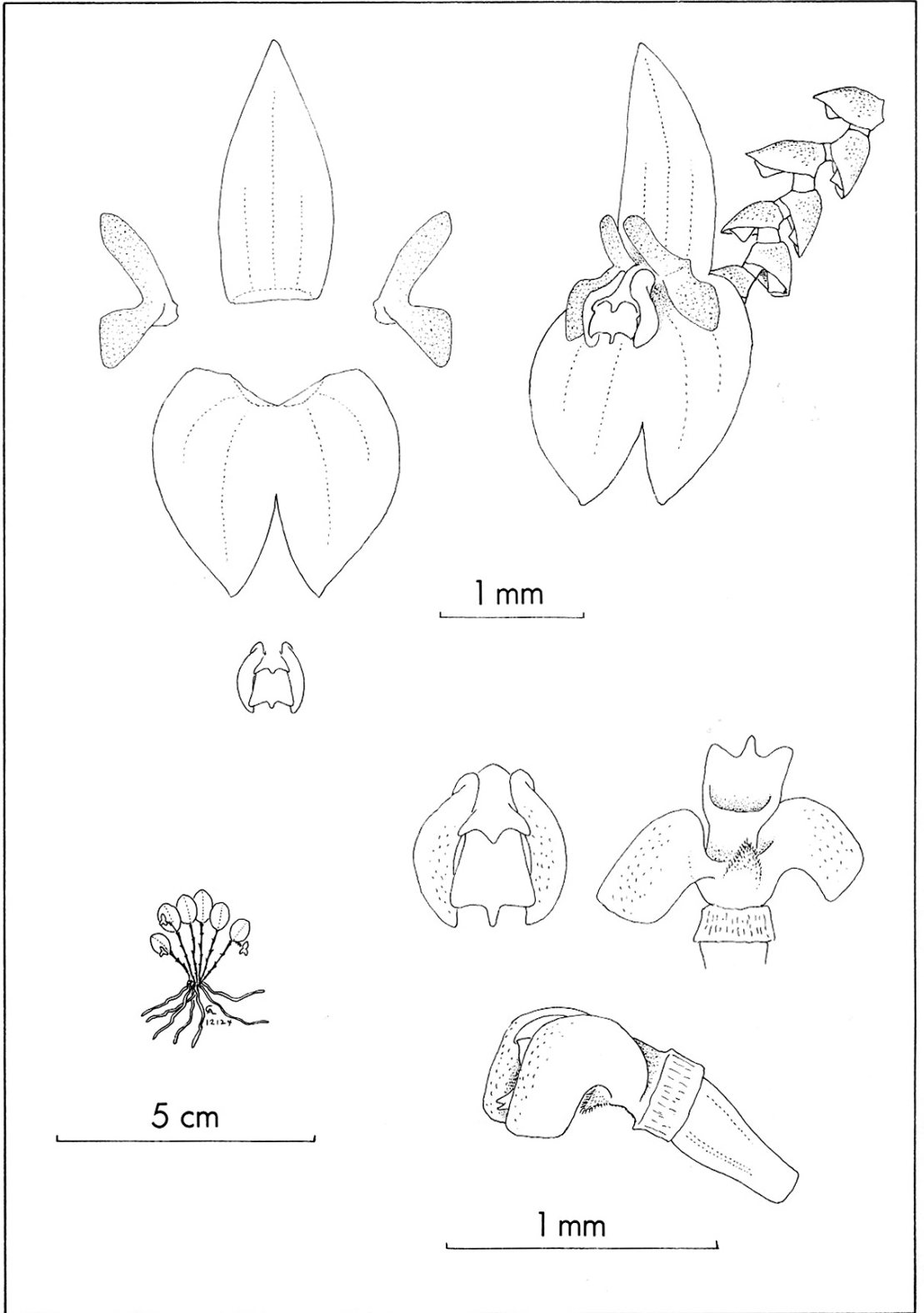
Planta perpusilla caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio elliptico brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis, petalis transverse bilobatis, lobis oblongis obtusis divergentibus, labello minuto bilobato, lobis oblongis truncatis, appendice pyramidalis pubescenti.

Plant minute, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 7-12 mm long, enclosed by 4 or 5 microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, broadly elliptical, obtuse, 5-8 mm long, 4.5-5 mm wide, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 0.75 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, successively several-flowered raceme up to 4 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 1-1.5 mm long; floral bracts 0.5 mm long; pedicels 0.3 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; sepals tan, entire, ovate, acute, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, 2 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, essentially free from the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals oblique, 1.75 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, connate 0.75 mm; petals yellow, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 0.25 mm long, 1 mm wide, the lobes oblong, oblique, obtuse, diverging, the lower lobe obtusely angled on the outer margin; lip red, bilobed, the blades oblong, oblique, truncate, 0.5 mm long, embracing the column, connate into a short body, connate to the base of the column, with a pyramidal, pubescent appendix; column 0.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *pygmaeus*, "pygmy," referring to the very small habit of the species.

TYPE: *COSTA RICA*: Prov. of Heredia: epiphytic in forest on Volcán Barba, near Concepción, alt. 1820 m, 20 March 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, T. Linder & W. Rhodehamel 12124 (Holotype: MO).

This species is one of the smallest in the genus. It was found abundantly on the twigs of low branches of one tree beside a cow pasture. The tiny flowers are borne on racemes shorter than the tiny, rounded leaves. Most distinctive are the minute, oblong lobes of the lip that flank the column, and the pyramidal, pubescent appendix that arises from the union of the lobes beneath the column. The lobes of the lip and the column are about 0.5 mm long.



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