

Lepanthes reflexa Luer & Hermans, *sp. nov.*
 TYPE: COSTA RICA. Cartago: Cerro de la Muerte, alt. 2750 m, flowered in cultivation 22 Mar. 1994, *J. Hermans & C. Hermans 2746* (Holotype: MO; Isotype: K). Fig. 21.

Planta parva, racemo congesto disticho folio brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis dorsali reflexo, petalis erectis, lobo superiore oblongo ad basim interiorem et ad apicem rotundato, lobo inferiore brevissimo semirobundato, labelli laminis angustis, connectivis brevibus late cuneatis et corpore lato crassissimo.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2.5–5 cm long, enclosed by 5–7 dark, microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical, obtuse, 2–3 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate, contracted into a 2 mm long petiole. **Inflorescence** a densely congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 23 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform peduncle 10 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long, muricate; pedicels 2–2.5 mm long; ovary 1

mm long; **sepals** yellow, suffused with red, glabrous, sharply carinate along the veins, ovate, acute, the dorsal sepal reflexed upon the ovary and pedicel, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, slightly acuminate, 3 mm long, 1.4 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm; **petals** erect, red, cellular-glandular, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, obtuse, dilated on the inner margin above the base, the lower lobe minute, suborbicular, 0.2 mm long; **lip** red, bilaminate, the blades cellular-glandular, narrowly oblong with the ends acute, 1.25 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, thick, connate to the base of the column, the sinus acute, without a visible appendix; **column** semiterete, 1.5 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *reflexus*, “reflexed,” referring to the dorsal sepal.

PARATYPE: COSTA RICA: Cartago. South of Cartago, beyond the lime kilns of Doña Ana Clara Mayorga, rainy season, ca. 1867, *A. R. Endres 579* (W).

This species was illustrated and described by Endres in the nineteenth century, but his herbarium specimen is lacking. It was apparently not collected again until it was found by the Hermans of Enfield, England. It is distinguished by the small habit with broadly elliptical, obtuse leaves borne by ramicauls with black sheaths; an inflorescence shorter than the leaf with a very congested raceme; and acute, carinate, glabrous sepals. The dorsal sepal is reflected against the ovary and pedicel. The oblong upper lobes of the petals, nearly as long as the dorsal sepal, stand erect, while the lower lobes are minute and rounded. The blades of the lip, shorter than the column, are narrow as thickened margins of short, broadly triangular connectives. The body is thick, and the sinus is acute without an apparent appendix.

Lepanthes reflexa is similar to *L. subdiminiata* Ames & C. Schweinf., also characterized by a minute lower lobe of the petals, but the latter is distinguished by denticulate sepals, and blades of the lip held above the column.

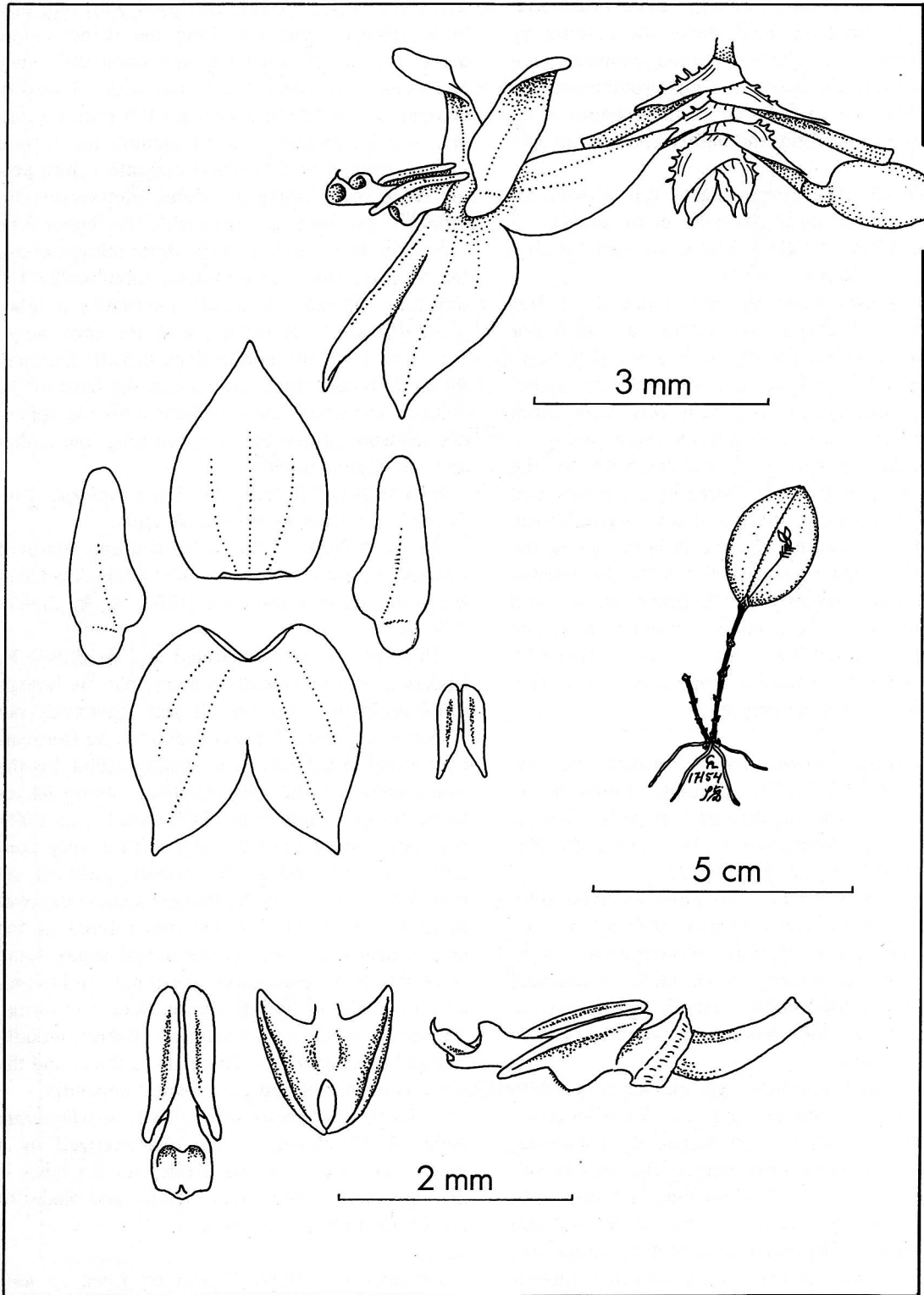


Fig. 21. *Lepanthes reflexa* Luer & Hermans.