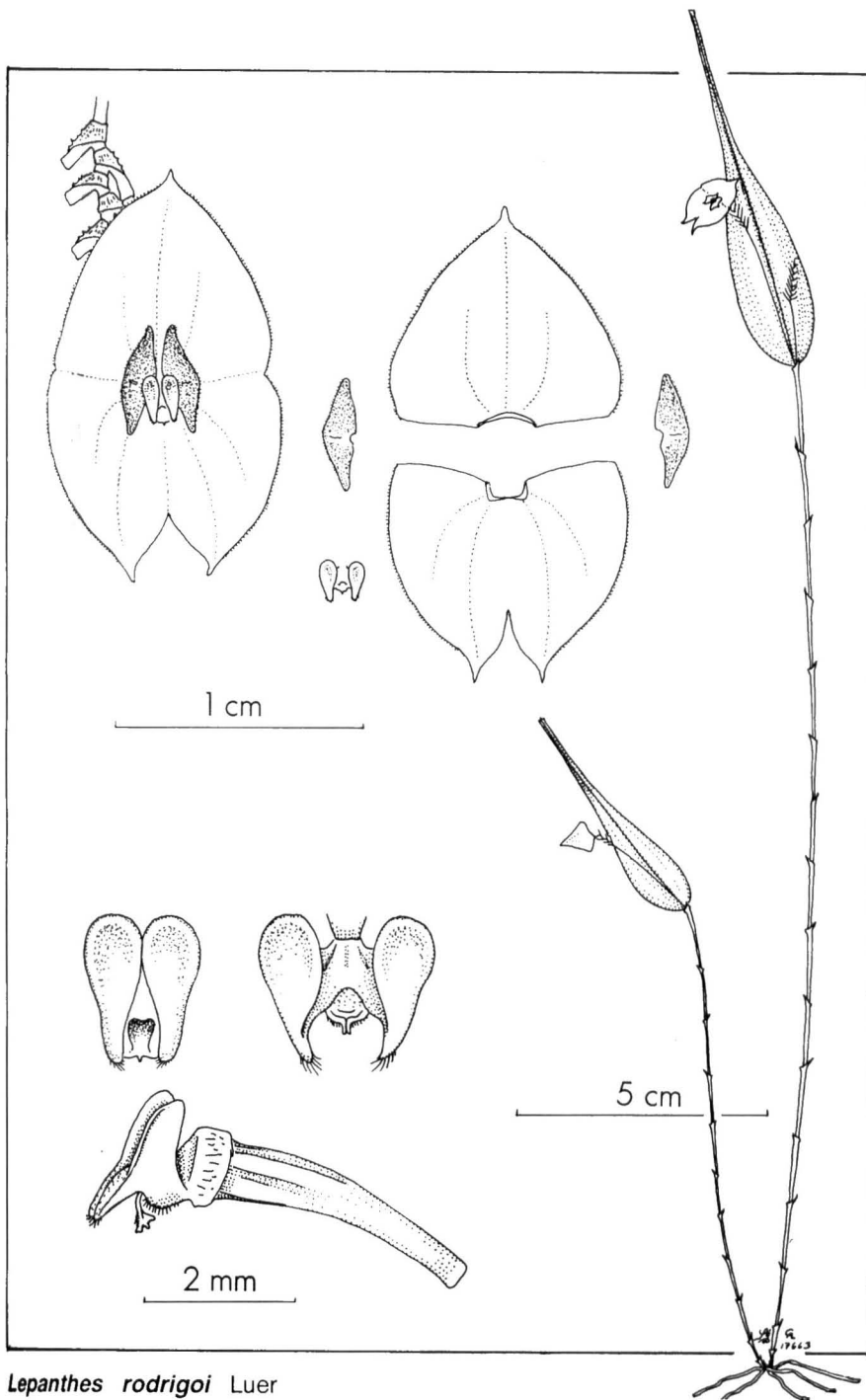


3. ***LEPANTHES RODRIGOI*** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris grandisve, ramicaulibus strictis elongatis gracillimis, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio anguste elliptico longissime acuminato



Lepanthes rodrigoii Luer

breviore, sepalis late ovatis obtusis, petalis transversis bilobis triangularibus, labelli lamina ovatis apicibus longiciliatis, connectivis late cuneatis, appendice late ovato membranacea limbata minute ciliata apice geminato approximato.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Antioquia: epiphytic in cloud forest north of the pass between Urrao and Carmen de Atrato, alt. 2700 m, 12 Dec. 1994, *R. Escobar, F. Lopez & W. Teague s.n.* (Holotype: JAUM); same locality, 30 May 1995, *C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar, L. Moreno de Posada, B. López, F. López & G. Arteaga 17663* (MO).

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada en honor de Rodrigo Escobar R. de Medellín, quien descubrió la especie.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Rodrigo Escobar R. of Medellín, discoverer of this species.

Plant medium to large in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls very slender, erect, strict, elongated, 5-23 cm long, enclosed by 9-15 microscopically scabrous, tightly fitting, lepanthiform sheaths with acuminate apices. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute, long-acuminate, 3-7 cm long, 0.9-1.6 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate, contracted into a petiole 2-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 10 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 15-35 mm long; floral bract spiculate, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 3-3.5 mm long; **sepals** orange-brown, suffused with purple medially, membranous, spiculate-carinate, microscopically ciliate, widely spread, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, minutely short-acuminate, 6-10 mm long, 7-9 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 3.5 mm, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, obtuse, 6-10 mm long, connate 4-5 mm into a bifid lamina 7-9 mm wide; **petals** brown, finely microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1-1.5 mm long, 4-4.5 mm wide, the lobes triangular, the upper lobe slightly larger; **lip** brown, bilaminate, the blades microscopically pubescent, ovate, 2 mm long, with rounded ends, the apex long-ciliate, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, filled with a broadly ovate, membranous appendix, with thickened, ciliate margins that are approximate at the tip; **column** 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal and the stigma ventral.

Esta especie se conoce solamente de un paso de montaña en la Cordillera Occidental de Colombia. Se caracteriza por ramicaules largos, rectos, muy delgados que soportan una hoja angostamente ovada con el ápice largamente acuminado. La angosta porción apical es más o menos el 40 por ciento del largo de la delgada hoja. El congestionado racimo, encima de la hoja, nace de un pedúnculo largo, filiforme. La

flor es de color café y comparativamente grande. Los sépalos son anchamente ovados con los obtusos ápices muy cortamente acuminados. Los lóbulos de los comparativamente pequeños pétalos transversos son triangulares. Las láminas del labelo son ovadas con ápices largamente ciliados. El apéndice es ancho y membranáceo, con márgenes engrosadas pubescentes, aproximadas en el ápice.

This species is known only from one mountain pass in the Western Cordillera of Colombia. It is characterized by long, straight, very slender ramicauls that bear a narrowly ovate leaf with a long-acuminate apex. The narrow, apical portion is about 40 percent of the length of the thin leaf. The congested raceme is borne on top of the leaf by a long, filiform peduncle. The flower is brown and comparatively large. The sepals are broadly ovate with the obtuse spices very shortly acuminate. The lobes of the proportionately small, transverse petals are triangular. The blades of lip are ovate with long-ciliate apices. The appendix is broad and membranous with thickened, pubescent margins that are approximate at the apex.