

Lepanthes similis Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Without locality, ca. 1867, A. Endres *s.n.* (Holotype: W). Fig. 8.

Planta mediocris, ramicaulorum vaginibus pallidis ostiis oblique acuminatis, racemo congesto folio ovato leviter acuminato brevior, sepalis ovatis subacutis minutissime denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobis oblongis, et labelli laminis parvis oblongis membranaceis glabris, sinu obtuso cum appendice microscopica.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 4–12 cm long, enclosed by 7–11 glabrous to microscopically ciliate, light brown, lepanthiform sheaths with oblique acuminate ostia. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, 4–6 cm long, 1.5–2 cm wide, the base cuneate, contracted into a 2–3 mm long petiole. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 8 mm long or longer, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle 10–15 mm long; floral bracts 1.5 mm long, muriculate; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; flowers appear to have been pale yellow or white; **sepals** cellular-denticulate on margins, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, acute, oblique, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** glabrous, transversely oblong, bilobed, 0.5 mm wide, 2.5 mm wide, the lobes oblong with the apices obtuse, the upper lobe slightly larger; **lip**

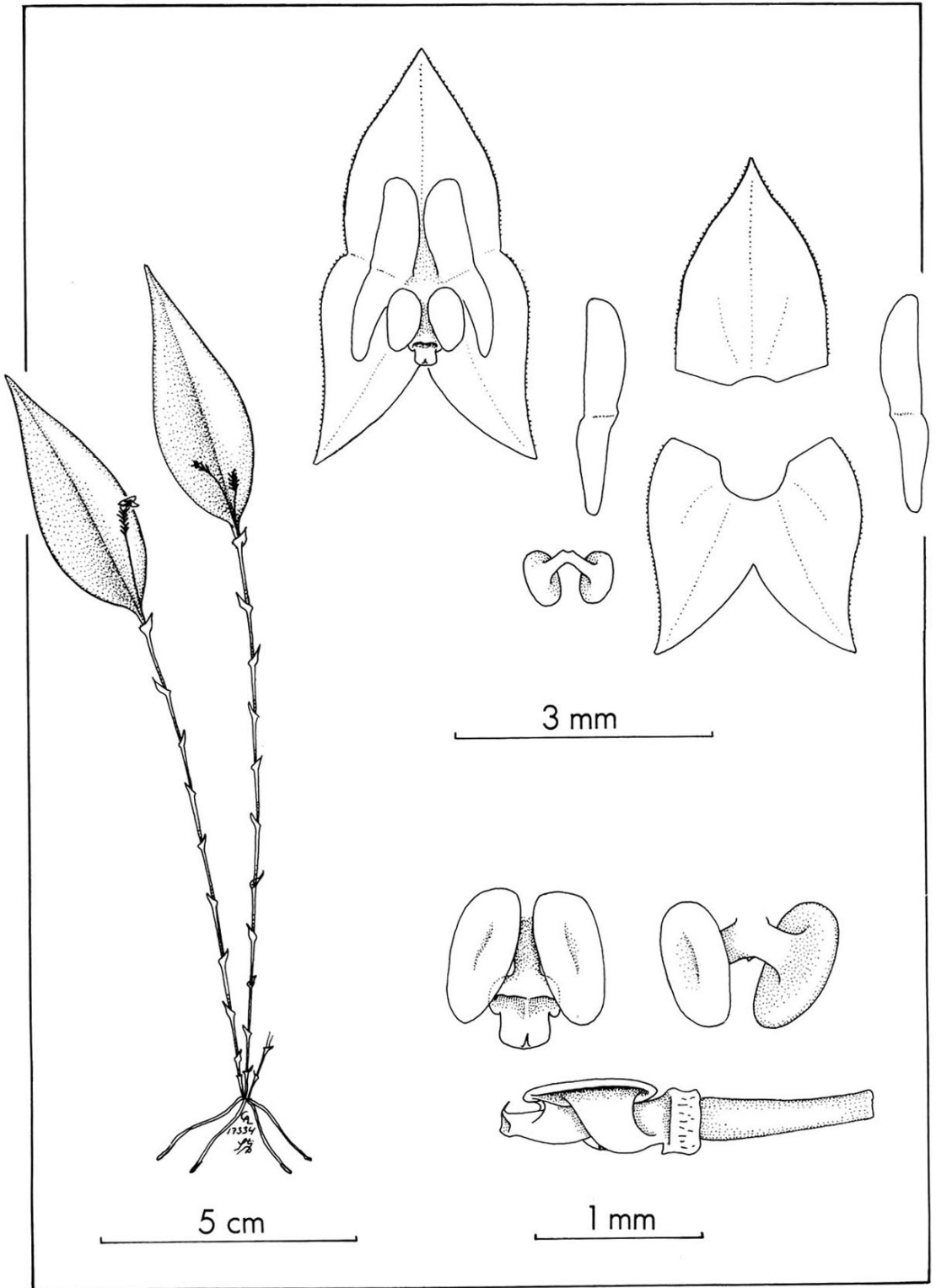


Fig. 8. *Lepanthes similis*

bilaminate, the blades glabrous, membranous, oblong, rounded at both ends, 0.5–0.75 mm long, held above the column by oblique connectives, the body connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse with a microscopic, triangular appendix; **column** clavate, terete, 1 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *similis*, “similar,” referring to the similarity to other species.

This species is similar to *L. disticha* and related species, but most easily distinguished from them by the light-colored, obliquely acuminate sheaths of the ramicauls. It is represented among Endres’ collections by five large plants mounted on four sheets. One is labeled *Endres 140*, but another specimen labeled *Endres 140* is *Lepanthes fimbriata* Ames. There are no collection data on any of the sheets. I have seen no other collection of this species. The accompanying illustration was made from flowers hydrated in concentrated ammonia. They appear to have been white or pale yellow.

Lepanthes similis is characterized by the congested raceme borne behind an ovate, acuminate leaf, that is in turn borne by a tall ramicaul with pale brown sheaths. The sepals are ovate and acute with cellular-denticulate margins. The petals are transversely oblong. The blades of the lip are small, membranous, oblong with rounded ends, with a microscopic appendix.

PARATYPE: COSTA RICA. Without locality, ca. 1867, A. *Endres 140* (W).