

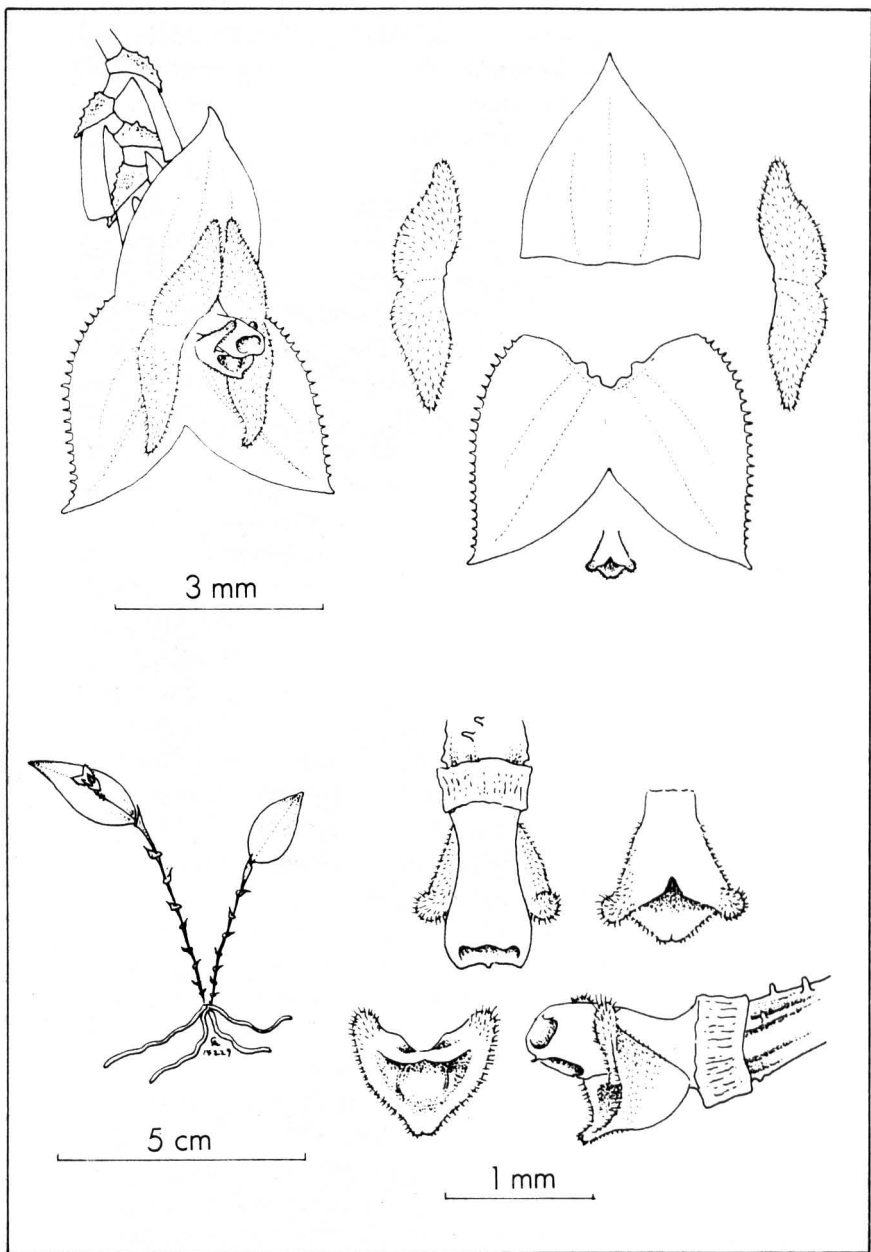
*Lepanthes stelidilabia* Luer & Escobar sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta folio ovato acuto brevior, sepalis late ovatis acutis lateralibus denticulatis, petalis transverse bilobatis, lobis subaequalibus ovatis obtusis pubescentibus, labello pubescenti crasso triangulari infra callum transversum concavo, lobis lateralibus dactyloideis, apice obtuso.

Plant small, epiphytic caespitose; roots comparatively coarse. Ramicauls erect, slender, 2-3.5 cm long, enclosed by 6-10 microscopically ciliate, long-acuminate lepanthiform sheaths with dilated ostia. Leaf erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute, lightly acuminate, 15-25 mm long, 9-11 mm wide, the base cuneate, contracted into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 8 mm or more long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 8-10 mm long; floral bracts 0.75 mm long, minutely echinate; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 1.25 mm long; sepals yellow, suffused with orange, carinate, broadly ovate, subacute, the dorsal sepal 3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, denticulate, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, connate 1 mm; petals transversely bilobed, pubescent, 1 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, the lobes about equal, ovate, oblique, obtuse, the upperlobe dull greenish orange, the lower lobe red-purple; lip bright red-orange, pubescent, thick, triangular in outline from top, side or front views, concave beneath a transverse, shelf-like callus, the lateral angles finger-like. to either side of the column, the anterior lobe obtuse, minutely retuse, the base cuneate, connate to the base of the column; column terete, 1 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma subapical.

Etymology: Named for the similarity of the lip to a lip of a species of *Stelis*.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Sonsón, Alto de Guayaquil, alt. 2430 m, collected by R. Escobar & E. Valencia, July 1985, flowered in cultivation at Colomborquídeas, 18 Mar. 1989, C. Luer 14229 (Holotype: MO).



*Lepanthes stelidilabia* Luer & Escobar

Superficially this species does not seem remarkable: a small habit; ovate leaves; a short, congested inflorescence on top of the leaf; and transverse, pubescent petals. The *telis*-like lip, however, seems unique in the genus. It is shorter than the column, thick, and triangular when viewed from the top, side or in front. Beneath a transverse, shelf-like callus across the middle under the column the lip is deeply concave. The lateral lobes flank the column like short, blunt fingers.