

cle 2-5 mm long; floral bract 0.8-1.25 mm long; pedicel 0.6-1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; sepals translucent yellow, glabrous, narrowly ovate, acuminate, acute, the dorsal sepal 4.5-5 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for ca. 0.3 mm, the lateral sepals 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm; petals yellow-orange, suffused with red basally, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, subfalcate, 0.75-1 mm long, 2.6-4 mm wide, the upper lobe falcate-oblong, narrowly obtuse, the lower lobe shorter, triangular, narrowly obtuse; lip red or yellow-orange suffused with red at the base, bilaminar, the laminae microscopically pubescent, oblong with rounded ends, 1-1.5 mm long, the apices ciliate, the connectives cuneate, the body narrow, connate to the base of the column, the sinus obtuse, the appendix external, oblong, saclike, membranous, pubescent; column slender, clavate, 1 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *thylax*, "a sac, or a pouch," referring to the appearance of the appendix.

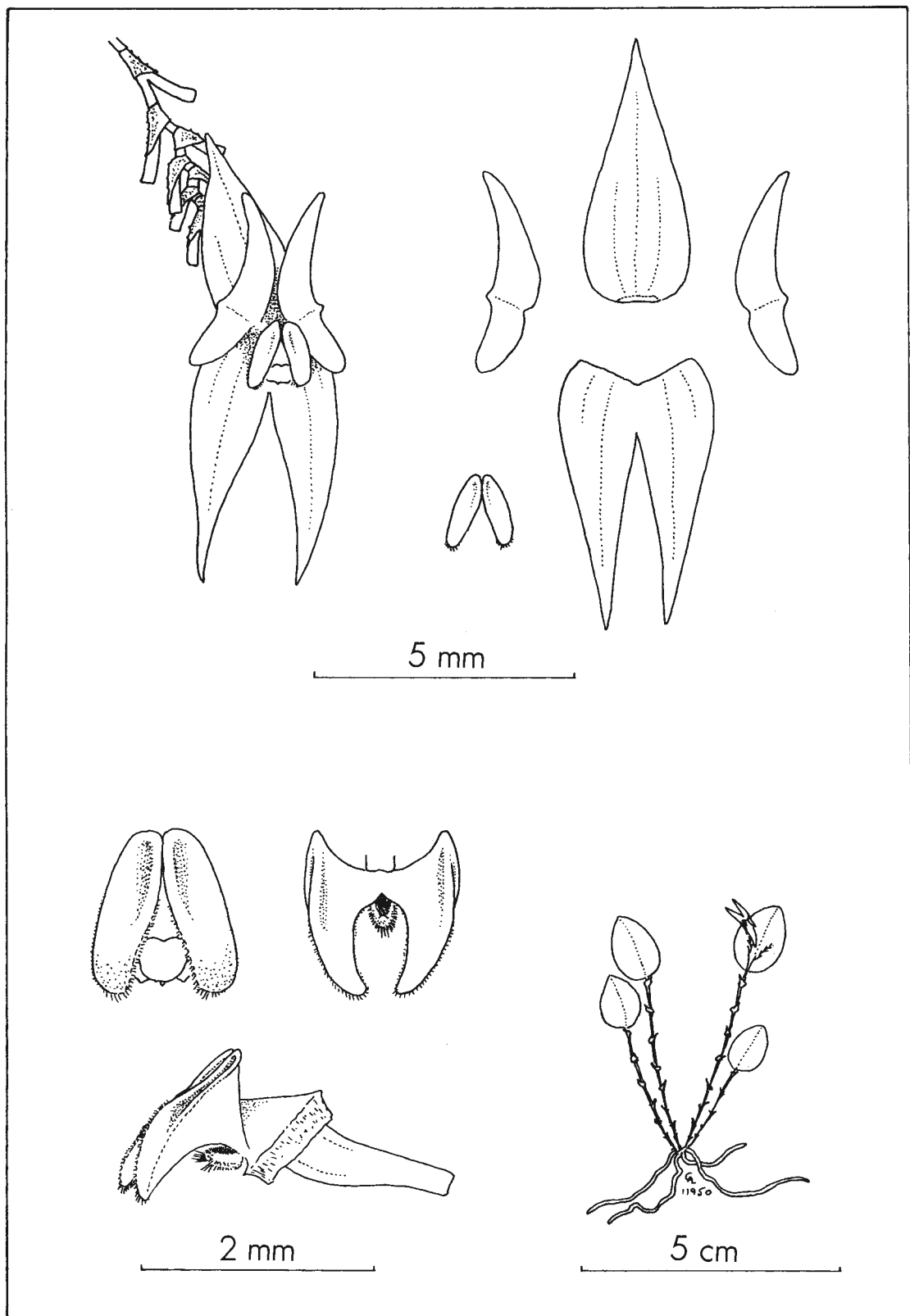
TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of Zamora-Chinchipe: epiphytic in trees along Río Zamora west of Zamora, alt. 900 m, 20 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Embree, A. Hirtz & W. Flores 11950 (Holotype: MO); Prov. of Napo: epiphytic in wet forest around the Bermejo oil fields, alt. 850 m, 9 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Embree, A. Hirtz & W. Flores 11744 (MO).

This small species is identified by the ovate leaves, each bearing on the purple undersurface one or two colorful flowers nearly as large as the leaf itself. The sepals are long-acuminate, the petals are falcate, and the blades of the lip are oblong. The appendix is a membranous, pubescent, oblong sac attached to the external surface of the body of the lip, the opening to the sac protruding forward below the sinus, but still a considerable distance beyond the stigma. Whatever the sac might offer to entice a pollinator to come beneath the stigma is unknown.

***Lepanthes thylax* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Planta perparva caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta pauciflora folio ovato obtuso brevior, sepalis anguste ovatis acuminatis glabris, petalis transverse bilobis, lobis anguste obtusis superiore subfalcato, labello bilaminato, laminis oblongis, connectivis cuneatis, appendice extus saccata pubescenti.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 15-40 mm long, enclosed by 6-9 minutely ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, ovate, margined, subacute to obtuse, 10-14 mm long, 7-11 mm wide, the rounded base contracted into a 1 mm long petiole. Inflorescence a congested, successively few-flowered raceme 2-5 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a filiform pedun-



*Lepanthes thylax* Luer & Hirtz