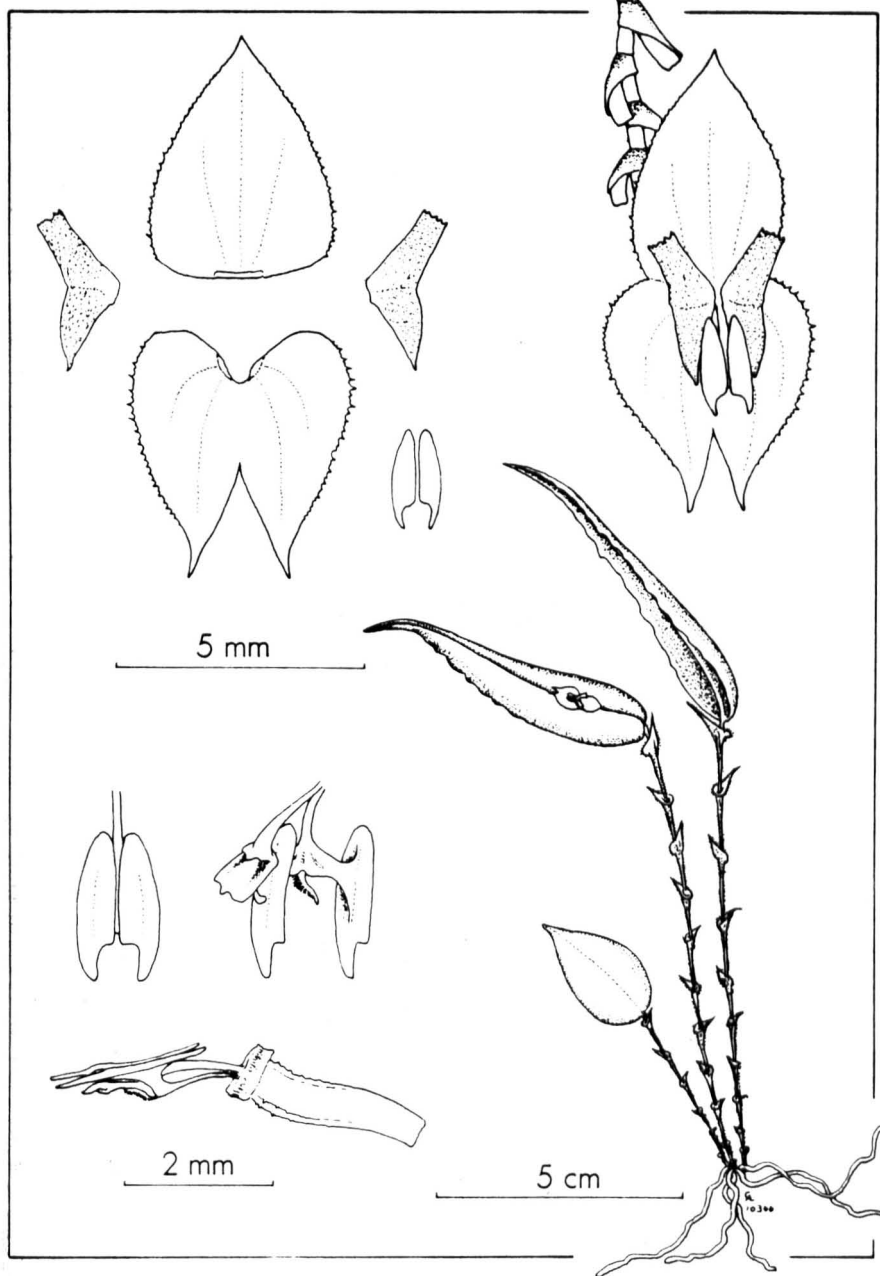


Lepanthes troxis Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris, ramicaulorum vaginis grosse hispidis apice dilatis, foliis purpureis patentibus acutis acuminatis marginibus revolutis undulatis racemo subdenso longioribus, sepalis ovatis minute denticulatis, petalis bilobis, lobis obliquis, lobo superiore oblongo truncato apice eroso, lobo inferiore triangulari acuto, labelli laminis tenuissimis ellipticis apice intus angulatis, connectivis angustis corpore longi-unguiculato, appendice vermiculari ciliata.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-10 cm long, enclosed by 8-12 coarsely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with dilated apices. Leaf dark purple, coriaceous, the immature leaves ovate, acute, flat, 2-4 cm long, 1.2-1.7 cm wide, the mature leaves spreading, narrowly ovate, acute, acuminate, 4-7.5 cm long, 1-1.5 cm wide, the margins revolute and undulate, the midrib prominent beneath, the rounded base convex, contracted into a petiole 2



Lepanthes troxis Luer & Escobar

mm long. Inflorescence a subdense, successively flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 8-10 mm long; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; sepals dark rose with broad yellow borders, ovate, acute, minutely denticulate, carinate, the dorsal sepal 5 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals oblique, 5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm; petals yellow, suffused with rose on the margins, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, the upper lobe oblong, oblique, with the apex truncate and coarsely erose, the lower lobe triangular, acute; lip rose, the blades very thin, elliptical, with the apices angled on the inner margin, 2 mm long, the connectives and body narrow, connate to the base of the column by a long, slender claw, the appendix vermiform, ciliate, in contact with a vermiform appendage from the stigma; column very slender, clavate, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

Etymology: From the Greek *trox*, "a caterpillar," alluding to the seemingly gnawed petals and the presence of the caterpillarlike appendix.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Cundinamarca: Munic. of Gutierrez: epiphytic in cloud forest above Gutierrez, alt. 2700 m, 19 May 1984, C. Luer, J. Luer, & R. Escobar 10366 (Holotype: MO, Isotype: JAUM), flowered in cultivation by L. & J. Posada at Colomborquideas, El Retiro, 19 June 1984, R. Escobar 3265 (COL, JAUM).

This species is closely allied to the Ecuadorian *L. contingens* Luer, but *L. troxis* is identified by the recurved, undulate margins of the leaves, the erose petals, and the slender, long-ciliate, wormlike appendix. The two species share in common the thin blades of the lip notched in front, a long, slender claw connecting the body of the lip to the base of very slender column, and a peculiar, fingerlike appendage from the stigma.