

Lepanthes valerioi Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Puntarenas: Buenos Aires, Ujarrás, cuenca superior Río Ceibo, alt. 2200–2600 m, 5 Oct. 1989, *M. Valerio 179* (Holotype: CR). Fig. 9.

Planta parva, racemo subdisticho foliis suborbicularibus longiore, sepalo dorsali acuto, sepalis lateralibus supra medium connatis, petalorum lobo superiore anguste triangulari lobo inferiore filamentoso, labelli laminae anguste oblongis supra columnam angustam adherentibus, conectivis brevibus latis cum corpore lato ad medium connato et appendice pedunculata distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 12–28 mm long, enclosed by 4–6 long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** bright green, erect, coriaceous, broadly elliptical to suborbicular, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 9–12 mm long, 7–9 mm wide, the base

broadly cuneate into a petiole 1–2 mm long. **In-florescence** a congested, distichous, successively flowered raceme to 20 mm long, including the peduncle 5–10 mm long, borne beyond the leaf; floral bracts 0.75 mm long, spiculate; pedicels 1.5–2 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** red, entire, carinate, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, acute, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, barely connate to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals connate 2.2 mm into an oblong, bifid lamina, 3.5 mm long, 2.2 mm wide, with the apices triangular, acute, free 1.75 mm; **petals** red, microscopically pubescent, ciliate near the middle, transversely bilobed, ca. 0.8 mm broad, 2.5 mm wide, the upper lobe narrowly triangular, acute, the lower lobe filiform, equally long; **lip** red, bilaminar, the blades glabrous, narrowly oblong, 2 mm long, adherent medially over the column, the apices acute, the bases rounded, the connectives short and very broad, 1 mm broad, forming a broad body beneath the column, connate to the column near the middle, the sinus obtuse with an ovoid, pubescent, pedunculated appendix; **column** very slender, semiterete, 2.5 mm long, the anther and the stigma apical.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Marlon Valerio who discovered this species.

This species is unique among the Central American species of the genus, although it is related to several Andean species (e.g., *L. ictalurus* Luer) with the broad body of the lip connate near the middle of a slender column. *Lepanthes valerioi* is distinguished by the small, rounded leaves surpassed by a congested, successively flowered raceme. The dorsal sepal is narrowly ovate and acute while the laterals are connate above the middle with acute, triangular apices. The upper lobe of the petals is narrowly triangular, and the lower lobe is filamentous. The narrowly oblong blades of the lip are adherent over a slender column to which the broad body of the lip is connate near the middle.

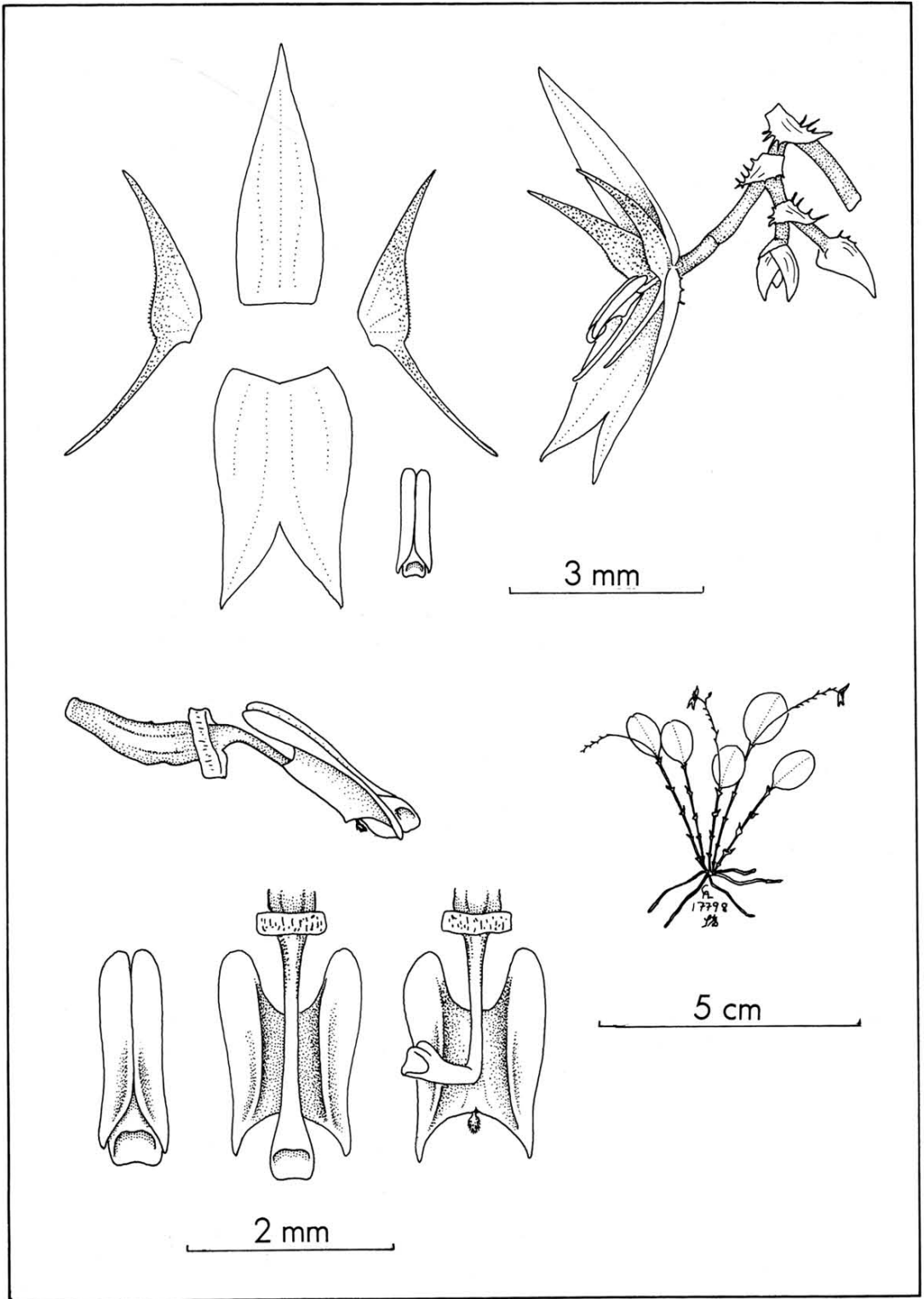


Fig. 9. *Lepanthes valerioi*