

Lepanthes whittenii Pupulin & Bogarín, **sp. nov.** inter species generis *Lepanthidis* sepalis petalisque valde reflexis, petalis anguste bifalcatis acuminatis, labello magno bilaminato apicibus superpositis dignoscenda; a *Lepanthidi mephistopheledis* Luer & Hirtz similis, sed vaginis ramicaulibus ostia non dilatata (versus dilatata), folio ovato subacuto (versus abrupte acuminatum), lobis petalorum subequalis (versus lobo superno quam lobo infero multo majore), forma labelli dissimilis recedit; a *Lepanthidi quetzalense* Luer & Behar petalis acuminatis (versus acutis) multo majoribus, labelli lobis latioribus apicibus convergentibus differt. Typus: Costa Rica, Whitten, Blanco & Bogarín 2164 (holotypus USJ-Spiritus; isotypus USJ-Spiritus).

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, erect, to 9 cm tall. *Roots* flexuous, about 1 mm in diameter. *Ramicauls* 4–6.5 cm long, enclosed by 5–6 lepanthiform, microscopically pubescent sheaths, the ostia obliquely slightly dilated, with ciliate margins. *Leaf* erect, coriaceous, convex, abaxially spotted with purple, widely ovate to suborbicular, subacute, emarginate, abaxially provided with a short apiculus, 2.1–3.8 × 1.4–2.6 cm, the base cuneate to subrounded, narrowing into a petiole 1 mm long. *Inflorescence* racemose, distichous, congested, successively flowered, borne under the leaf, to 3 cm long; peduncle filiform, about 1.5 cm long. *Floral bracts* conduplicate, ovate, acute, muriculate, about 1 mm long. *Pedicel* 1 mm long. *Ovary* subglobose, rounded in section, 1 mm long. *Flowers* about 10 × 6 mm, the sepals pale reddish brown with the nerves tinged brownish red, spotted brownish red between nerves, the petals pale yellow, transversely striped with brownish red, the lip yellow. *Dorsal sepal* widely elliptic, acuminate, reflexed,

concave, 5 × 4 mm, connate to the lateral sepals for about 1 mm. *Lateral sepals* obliquely elliptic, acuminate, reflexed, concave, 5 × 3 mm, connate at the base 1.5 mm. *Petals* transversely bilobed, the apices reflexed, 1.2 × 8.5 mm, the upper lobe falcate, acuminate, 1 × 4 mm, the lower lobe narrowly falcate, 0.6 × 4 mm. *Lip* bilobate to sub-bilaminar, 1.5 × 1.8 mm, the blades narrowly ovate-falcate, poorly defined under the middle of blade, the rounded apices convergent, overlapping, the connectives linear-ligulate, the body rectangular, retuse, provided with an external appendix, borne under the base of body. *Column* 1.2 mm long, with the anther dorsal, the stigma apical. Anther cucullate, obcordate. Pollinia 2, obovate-obpyriform, on an elliptic caudicle (Fig. 2).

COSTA RICA. Border of San José and Cartago provinces: Pan-American Highway, km 52, El Empalme, c. 300 m after the turning to Santa María de Dota, 09°42'49.1"N, 83°56'58.2"W, 26 July 2003, W. M. Whitten, M. A. Blanco & D. Bogarín 2164 (holotype USJ-Spirit; isotype USJ-Spirit).

HABITAT. Epiphytic in roadside trees in lower montane wet forest along the ridge of the Cordillera de Talamanca in central Costa Rica; 2,295 m.

DISTRIBUTION. Known only from Costa Rica.

DERIVATION OF NAME. In honour of Dr W. Mark Whitten, of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, who participated in the type collection, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the systematics of advanced groups of the orchid family.

Lepanthes whittenii is distinguished by the strongly reflexed sepals and petals, the petals with narrowly falcate, acuminate lobes, and the large bilaminar lip with the apices overlapping. It differs from *L. mephistopheles* Luer & Hirtz, in the apices of the ramicaul sheaths adpressed to the stem (versus dilated in *L. mephistopheles*), the subacute apex of the leaf (abruptly acuminate in *L. mephistopheles*), the subequal lobes of the petals (the upper lobe much larger than the lower lobe in *L. mephistopheles*) and the differently shaped lip. *Lepanthes quetzalensis* Luer & Behar, has shorter, acute petals and narrower lobes of the lip, with the convergent apices not overlapping.

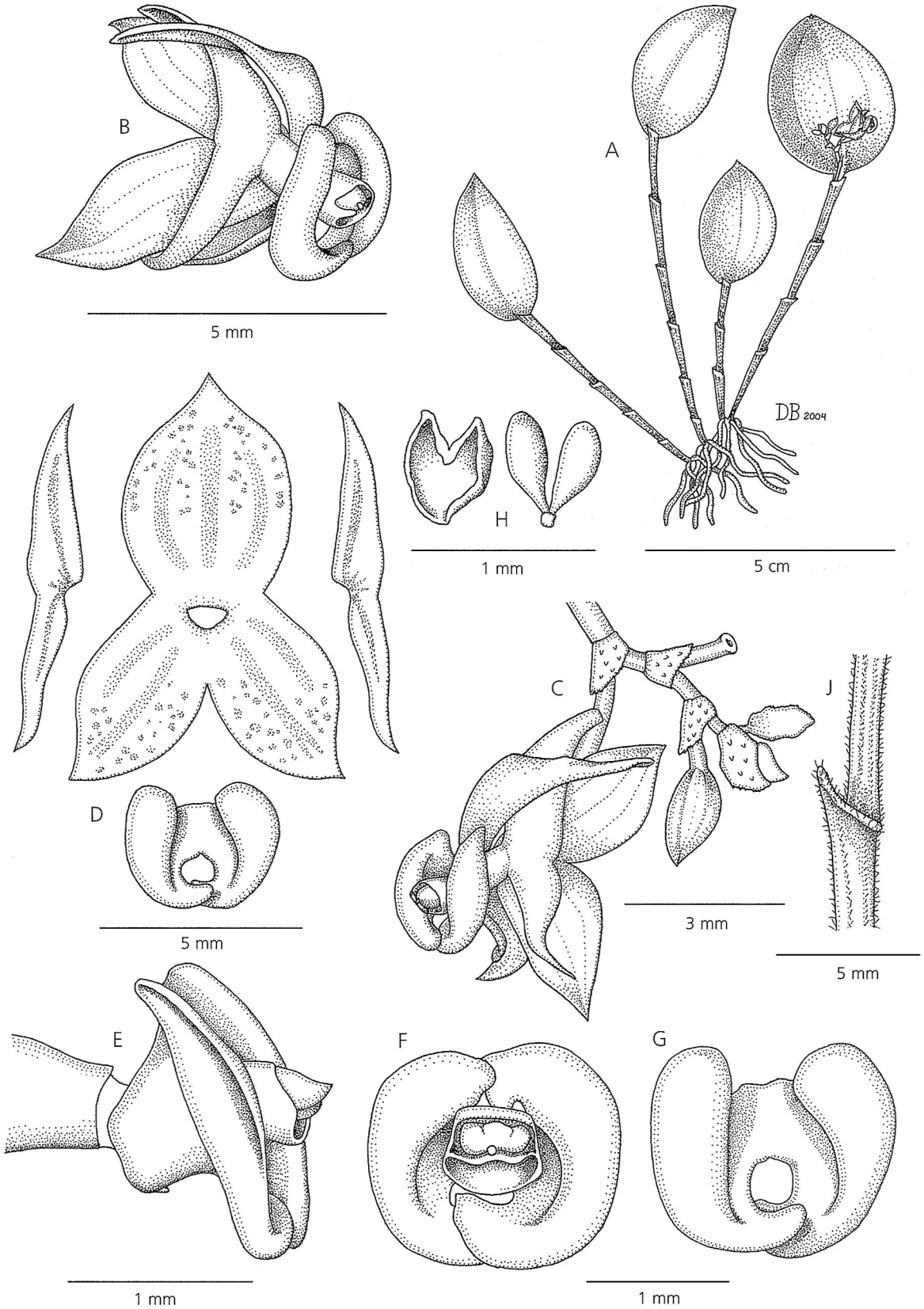


Fig. 2. *Lepanthes whittenii*. **A** habit; **B** flower; **C** apex of inflorescence; **D** perianth dissected; **E** lip and column, lateral view; **F** lip and column, frontal view; **G** lip, frontal view; **H** anther and pollinarium; **J** ramicaul. All from Whitten, Blanco & Bogarín 2164. DRAWN BY D. BOGARÍN.