

Lepanthes irrasa Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Etymology: From the Latin *irrasus*, "unshaven," referring to the pubescent floral parts.

Planta parva foliis suborbicularibus breviter ciliatis, sepalis ovatis subacutis pubescentibus, petalis pubescentibus microscopicis, labello pubescenti late ovato vel suborbiculato

Plant small, epiphytic, pendent, long-repent, the rhizome 2-2.5 mm long between ramicauls, occasionally branching, each segment enclosed by 2 long-ciliate sheaths; roots slender, along the rhizome. Ramicauls abbreviated, 1 mm long, enclosed by 1 infundibular, long-ciliate lepanthiform sheath. **Leaf** descending, coriaceous, shortly ciliate, broadly elliptical to suborbicular, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 4-5 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, 3-veined, the rounded base contracted into a petiole 0.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a single flower, occasionally followed by a second, borne by a slender, upcurved peduncle 3 mm long; floral bract ciliate, 1 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary muricate, 1 mm long; **sepals** red, diffusely pubescent, more or less reflexed, widely spread, ovate, subacute, the dorsal sepal 3 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, 3-veined, barely connate to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals oblique, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate 1 mm, with the margins entire, thickened; **petals** microscopic, pubescent, orbicular, 0.2 mm long and broad; **lip** red, pubescent, broadly ovate to suborbicular, 1.75 mm long, 1.5 mm wide expanded, with short, obtuse, basal lobes surrounding the column, the apex broadly rounded, the base connate to the base of the column; **column** 1 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Norte de Santander: Munic. of Toledo, epiphytic in cloud forest, alto de Santa Inés, alt. 2150 m, 13 May 1984, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 10341 (Holotype: MO).

This species from the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia is most similar to *L. micropetala* from which it is distinguished by the smaller leaves, and pubescent sepals, petals and lip. The lip is suborbicular with obtuse, basal lobes that surround the column like a collar. It was found growing on small trees and intermixed with *L. destituta* and *L. micropetala*.



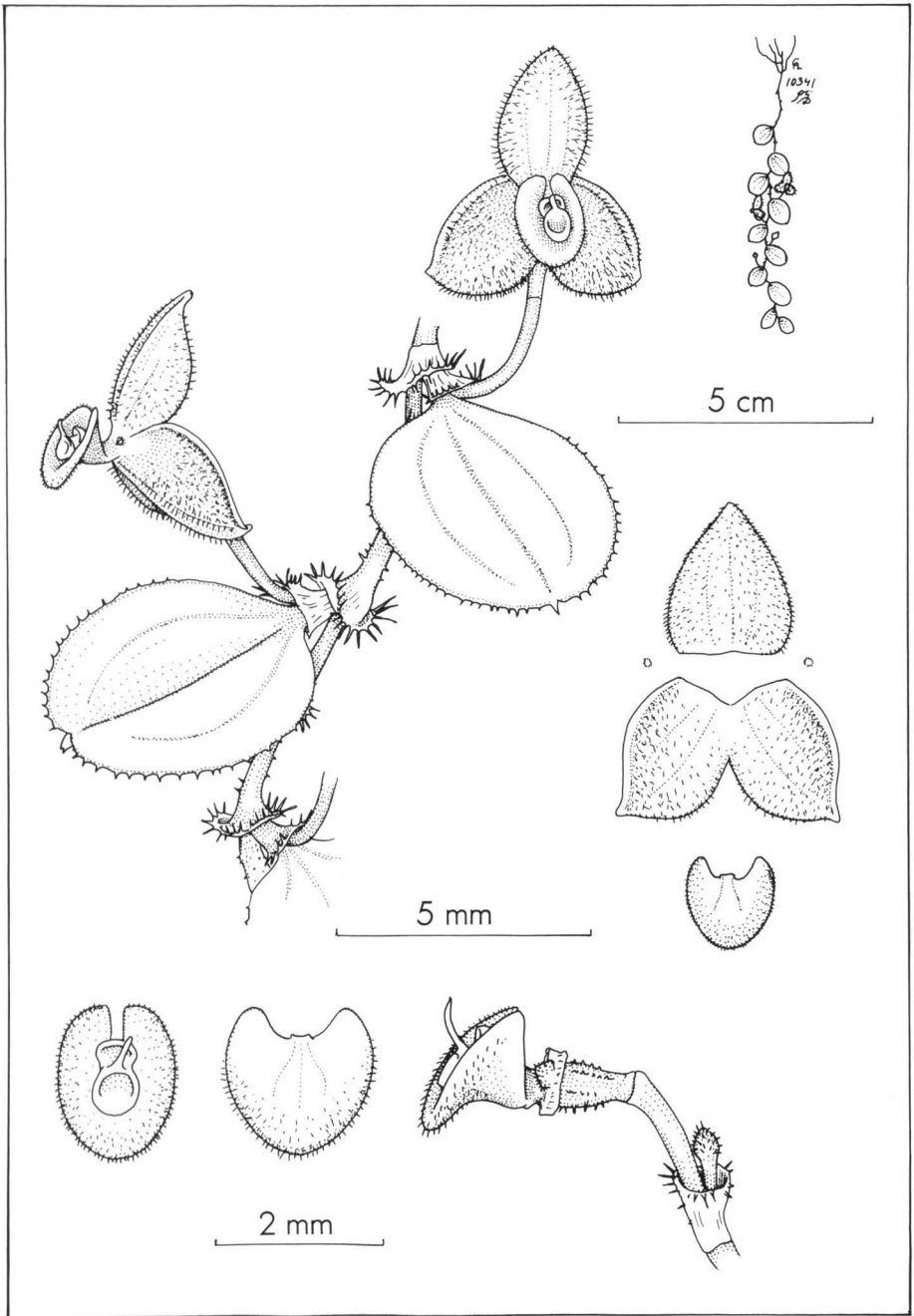


Plate 9. *Lepanthes irrasa* Luer & Escobar