

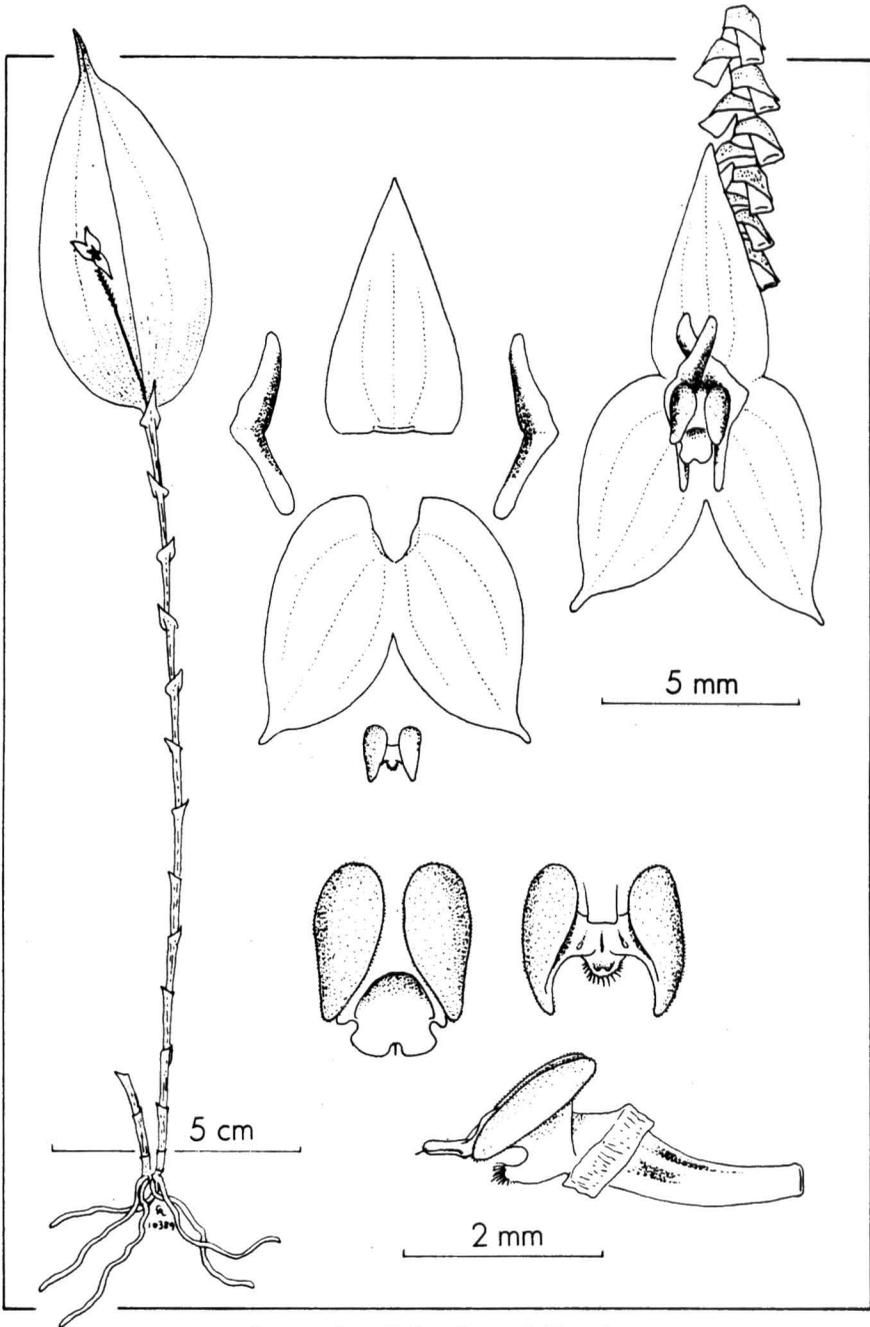


Lepanthes ligiae Luer & Escobar
Photograph: Jorge Mario Múnera B.
Grower: Colomborquídeas.

Lepanthes ligiae Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta grandis, inflorescentia racemosa congestissima folio elliptico abrupte acuminato brevior, sepalis ovatis acutis trinervis, petalis transverse bilobis, lobis inflexis anguste oblongis apice rotundatis, labelli laminis ovatis microscopice pubescentibus, connectivis late cuneatis, appendice late triangulari crassa pubescenti, columna grandi.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 14-17 cm long, enclosed by 12-13 lepanthiform sheaths minutely ciliate on the ribs and margins. Leaf erect, coriaceous, prominently veined beneath, elliptical, acute, abruptly acuminate, 7-9 cm long, 2.5-3.5 cm wide, the base rounded, contracted into a petiole 5-7 mm long. Inflorescence a very congested, distichous, successively many-flowered raceme up to 18 mm long, borne behind the leaf by a slender peduncle



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25-32 mm long; floral bract 1-1.5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals light yellow, carinate, 3-veined, the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, acute, 6.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, subacute, shortly acuminate, 6.5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, connate 2 mm; petals yellow with red inner edges, microscopically pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 4.75 mm wide, the lobes bent inward, narrowly oblong with rounded apices, subequal in size; lip orange with red outer margin, bilaminate, the blades ovate, acute at the apex, round at the base, 1.5 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad, connate to the column at the base, the appendix thick, pubescent, broadly triangular, concave, with a minute incurved apical lobule; column stout, 1.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma subapical.

Etymology: Named in honor of Sra. Ligia Moreno de Posada who with her husband Jaime Posada has successfully cultivated this species at Colomborquídeas near where the species was discovered.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Antioquia: epiphytic in forest above Colomborquídeas alt. ca. 2600 m, R. Escobar 3309, flowered in cultivation 16 May 1984, *C. Luer 10389* (Holotype: MO).

This large species, so far known only from the forests in Antioquia around Fizebad, is distinguished by the congested, short-pedicellate raceme, acute sepals, narrowly oblong petals, ovate lobes of the lip, and a thick, triangular appendix.