

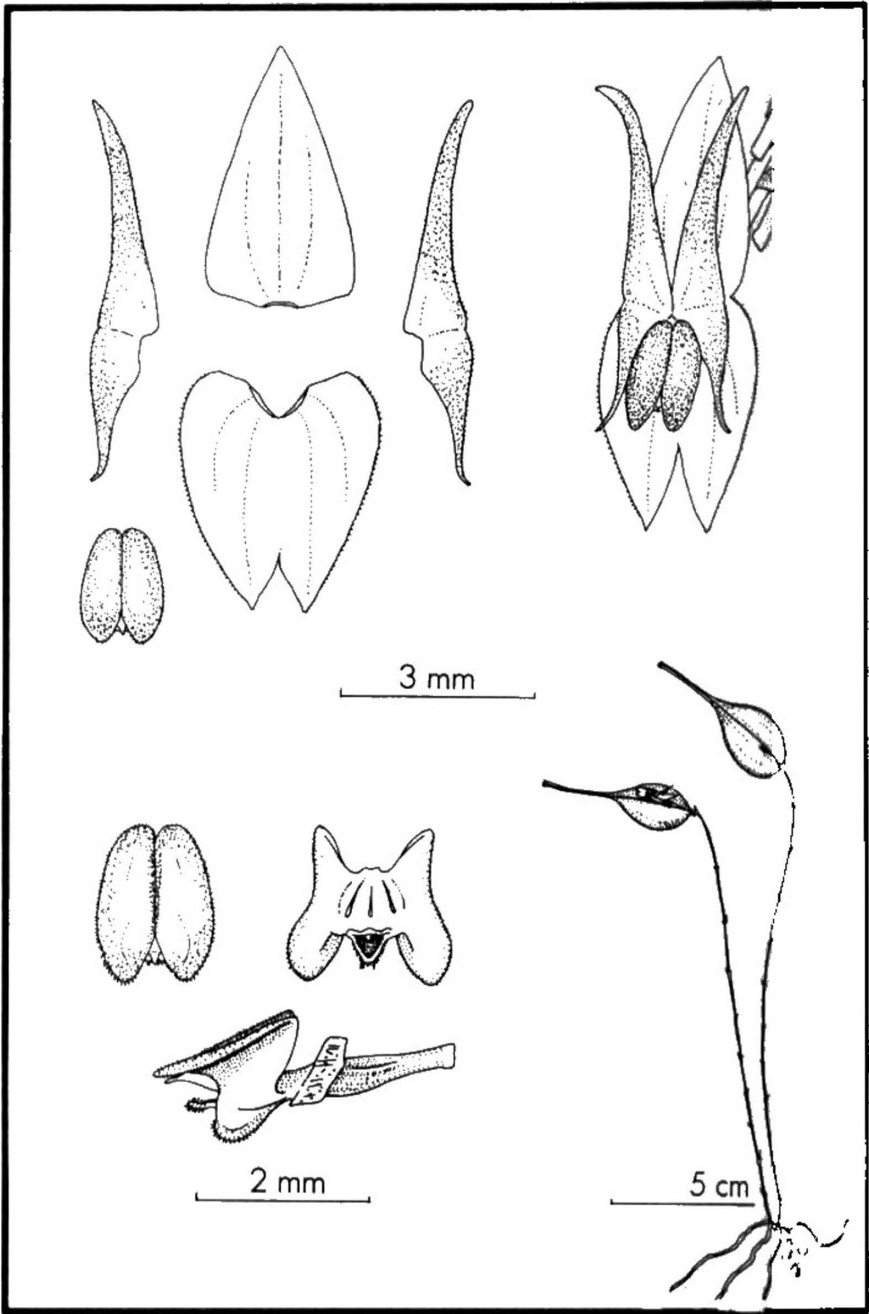
120. **LEPANTHES GELATA** Luer & R. Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva debilis caespitosa, inflorescentia racemosa congesta subsecunda folio ovato longi-acuminato brevior, sepalo dorsali triangulari, sepalis lateralibus in synsepalum ovatum bifidum connatis, petalis transverse lobatis, lobis triangularibus longi-acuminatis, labelli lamina elliptica planis, connectivis latissimis, corpore profunde mentoso intus gelato transparenti, sinu transverso cum appendice late triangulari ciliolata.

TYPE: Colombia: Dept. of Risaralda: above Pueblo Rico, epiphytic in cloud forest below the TV antenna, alt. 2400 m, 14 May 1993, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. De Wilde & J. Gómez 16837 (Holotype: MO).

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *gelatus*, “coagulado”, en referencia a la apariencia gelatinosa del cuerpo del labelo.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *gelatus*, “congealed,” in reference to the gelatinous appearance of the body of the lip.



120. ***LEPANTHES GELATA***
Luer & R. Escobar

Plant small, weak, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls very slender, suberect to erect, 4-12 cm long, enclosed by 10-18 microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** suberect to spreading, thin, ovate, acute to subacute, with the long-acuminate tip about as long as the blade, 30-37 mm long, 12-18 mm wide, the base rounded or broadly cuneate, contracted into a petiole 1-1.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a very congested, subsecund, successively many-flowered raceme, up to 5 mm long, borne on top of the leaf by a filiform peduncle 3-9 mm long; floral bracts 0.5 mm long; pedicels overlapping, 0.75-1 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, glabrous, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, 4 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals connate 2 mm into an ovate, bifid lamina, 4 mm long, 3 mm wide, each 2-veined, with the apices acute; **petals** orange, suffused with red, minutely pubescent, transversely bilobed, 1 mm long, 6 mm wide, 1-veined, the lobes opposite, narrowly triangular, acuminate, the lower lobe smaller; **lip** purple with darker purple edges, bilaminar, the blades microscopically pubescent, flat, elliptical-oblong, with rounded ends, 1.8 mm long, the connectives broadly cuneate, the body broad with a deep mentum externally, with a flat, membranous surface within covering the interior of the mentum which is filled with a transparent gelatinous substance, connate to the base of the column, the sinus transverse with a broadly triangular, ciliate appendix; **column** 1.5 mm long, with the anther dorsal and the stigma ventral.

Esta especie, conocida solamente de una zona en la Cordillera Occidental, se da epífita en ramitas delgadas en un bosque húmedo, a una altura moderadamente alta. Las plantas más grandes consisten de no más de dos o tres ramicaules débiles, muy delgados, los que portan un hoja pequeña, patente, ovada, con un ápice atenuado casi tan largo como la lámina. La flor, con largos pétalos, nace encima de la hoja. Más raro es el destacado mentón del cuerpo del labelo. Este da la impresión de estar lleno de un material gelatinoso transparente el cual está cubierto por una membrana plana, delgada. El triangular y ciliado apéndice se origina desde el seno que está contiguo al margen anterior de la membrana.

This species, known only from one area in the Western Cordillera, is a twig-epiphyte in a wet forest at a moderately high altitude. The largest plants consist of no more than two or three very thin, weak ramicauls that bear a small, spreading, ovate leaf with an attenuate apex about as long as the blade. The long-petaled flower is borne upon the leaf. Most unusual is the conspicuous mentum of the body of the lip. It seems to be filled with a transparent, gelatinous material which is covered by a thin, flat membrane. The triangular, ciliate appendix originates from the sinus that is contiguous with the anterior margin of the membrane.