

Lepanthes hexapus Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva, racemo congesto foliis ovatis brevioribus, sepalis libris, sepalo dorsali obovato, sepalis lateralibus oblongis denticulatis, petalis angustissime tripartitis, labelli laminis anguste ellipticis ciliatis, appendice ovoidea apice bilobulata.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, erect, 1-2 cm long, enclosed by 5-6 ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, veined in purple, ovate, acute, 10-17 mm long, 7 mm wide, the base cuneate into a petiole 1 mm long. Inflorescence a congested, secund, successively flowered raceme 3-4 mm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 5-6 mm long behind the leaf; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; dorsal sepal red, free, obovate, 5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex obtuse with a short apiculum; lateral sepals yellow, free except at the base, denticulate, oblong, oblique, acute, 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; petals bright orange, tripartite, the lobes filiform, 2 mm long, the uppermost ciliate; lip purple, the blades narrowly elliptical, 2.25 mm long, ciliate, the connectives short, cuneate, connate to the column near the middle, the appendix at the sinus, pubescent, ovoid, with a bilobulate apex; column slender, 2.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *hexapous*, "six-footed," referring to the six segments of a pair of petals.

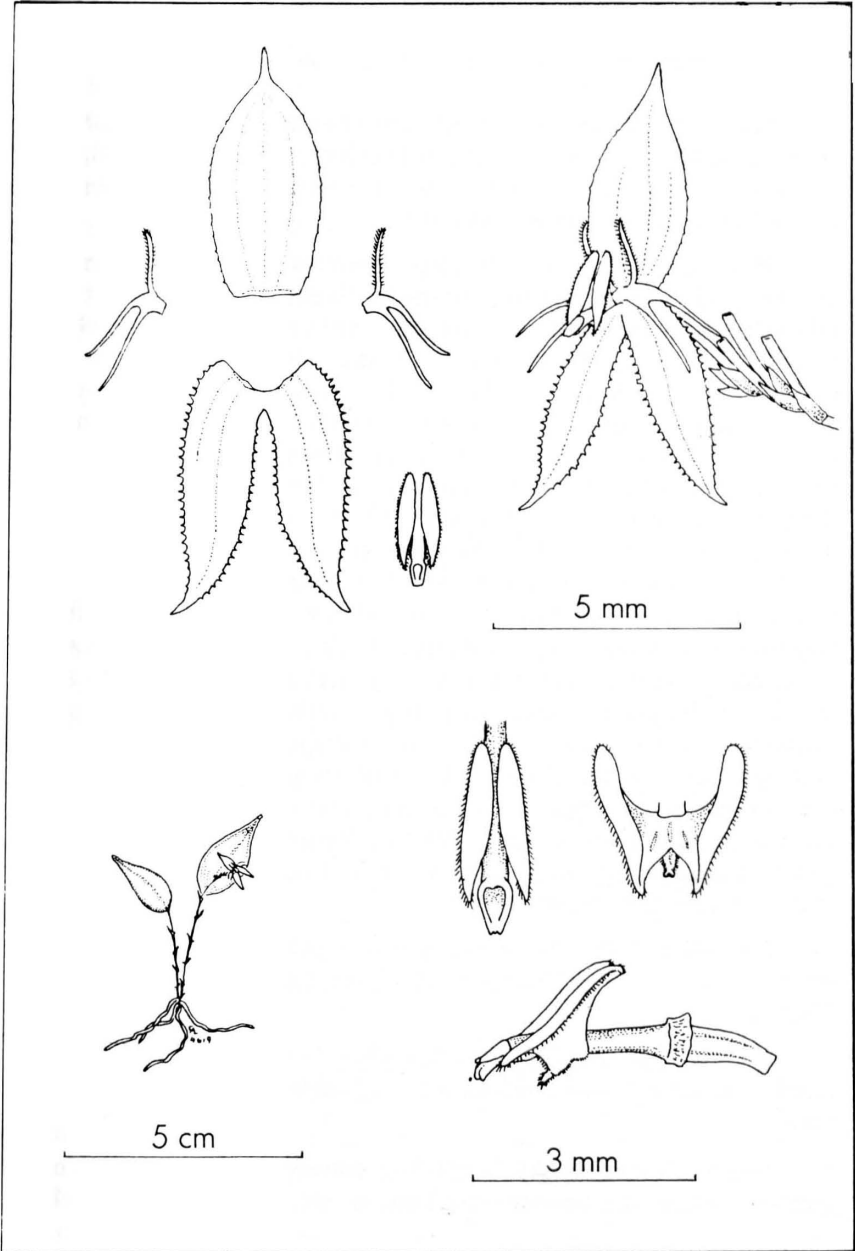
ETIMOLOGIA: Del griego *hexapous*, "de seis pies", en referencia a los seis segmentos del par de pétalos.

TYPE: *COLOMBIA*: NARIÑO: epiphytic in cloud forest above Ricaurte, alt. 1.600 m, 3 Nov. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & K. Walter 4619 Holotype: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Colombia.

This little species with ovate leaves and a short, congested inflorescence is remarkable for the essentially free sepals, denticulate lateral sepals, petals divided into three filiform segments, and narrow blades of the lip with an ovoid, bilobulate appendix. In the living flower, the six parts of the petals protruding from behind the ciliate blades of the lip look very much like a struggling insect.

Esta pequeña especie de hojas ovadas y una corta inflorescencia congestionada es notable por los sépalos esencialmente libres, sépalos laterales denticulados, pétalos divididos en tres segmentos filiformes, y



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Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

estrechas láminas del labelo con un apéndice ovoide bilobulado. En la flor fresca, las seis partes de los pétalos que sobresalen desde detrás de las ciliadas láminas del labelo se asemejan mucho a un insecto forrajeando.