

# *Echinosepala lappiformis*

(A.HELLER & L.O.WILLIAMS) PRIDGEON & M.W.CHASE  
LINDLEYANA 17(2): 101. 2002

**Synonyms:** *Pleurothallis lappiformis* A.Heller & L.O.Williams, Fieldiana, Botany 31(2): 42. 1964.  
*Myoxanthus lappiformis* (A.Heller & L.O.Williams) Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 15: 38. 1986.  
*Brenesia lappiformis* (A.Heller & L.O.Williams) Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 95: 255. 2004.

**Type:** Nicaragua. Chontales: epiphytic at Pistacho Peak near Babilonia Mine, alt. 650 m, Jul 1962, A. Heller 6620 (holotype, F).

**Illustrated specimen:** Costa Rica. Limón: Pococí, Guápiles, Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo, Sector Quebrada González, Sendero Las Palmas, behind the building, 467 m, tropical wet, transition to premontane wet forest. 22 March 2012. D. Bogarín et al. 9554 (JBL-spirit; LCDP voucher).

**Plant** epiphytic, shortly repent, erect to subprostrate, up to 25 cm tall. **Ramicauls** stout, terete, 15–50 mm long, composed by 2–3 unequal nodes, enclosed by 3 papyraceous, fibrous, tubular, obtuse sheaths, to 3 cm long, fragmented with age. **Leaf** thickly coriaceous, elliptic, acute, minutely emarginate, 6–12 × 2–3 cm, base sessile, mid vein strongly protruding abaxially. **Inflorescence** a single flower emerging from the lower nodes of the ramicaul; the peduncle terete, erect, minutely pubescent, 3–4 mm long, subtended by a fibrous, brown, acute bract 3 mm long. **Floral bract** fibrous-papyraceous, brownish, inflated, obliquely truncate, 7–8 mm long. **Pedicle** obconical, pubescent, 2–3 mm long. **Ovary** clavate, purple, 3 mm long, densely long-pubescent to echinate. **Flowers** bilabiate, dorsal sepal apically connate to the tip of the synsepal, fleshy, non-resupinate, held almost vertically, bright red-purple, the petals basally white, densely long pubescent-echinate externally, rugose-verrucose within. **Dorsal sepal** narrowly triangular, acute, 17–20 × 4–5 mm, 3-veined. **Lateral sepals** connate to the apex into an obovate, obtuse, concave synsepal, the margins erect, adaxially transversely verruculose, 20–22 × 14–16 mm. **Petals** fleshy, linear-oblong, acute, adaxially verruculose in the distal half, 11–12 × 3 mm, 3-veined. **Lip** 3-lobed, elliptic from a thin, rectangular, rose-hyaline claw, 7–8 × 3–4 mm, base truncate; apical lobe ovate, truncate, denticulate, verruculose, provided with a pair of intramarginal, thick, apically verruculose keels running inside the lateral lobes toward the disc; lateral lobes erect, elliptic-subuncinate, antrorse; the disc transversely rugose-sulcate.

**Column** straight, semiterete, 6–7 mm long, with narrow, rectangular wings above the middle ending at apex into pointed teeth, the foot 1 mm long. **Anther cap** globose, cucullate, with stiff hairs on the upper margin, 2-celled. **Pollinia** 2, ovoid, laterally compressed, on a short bilobed caudicle.

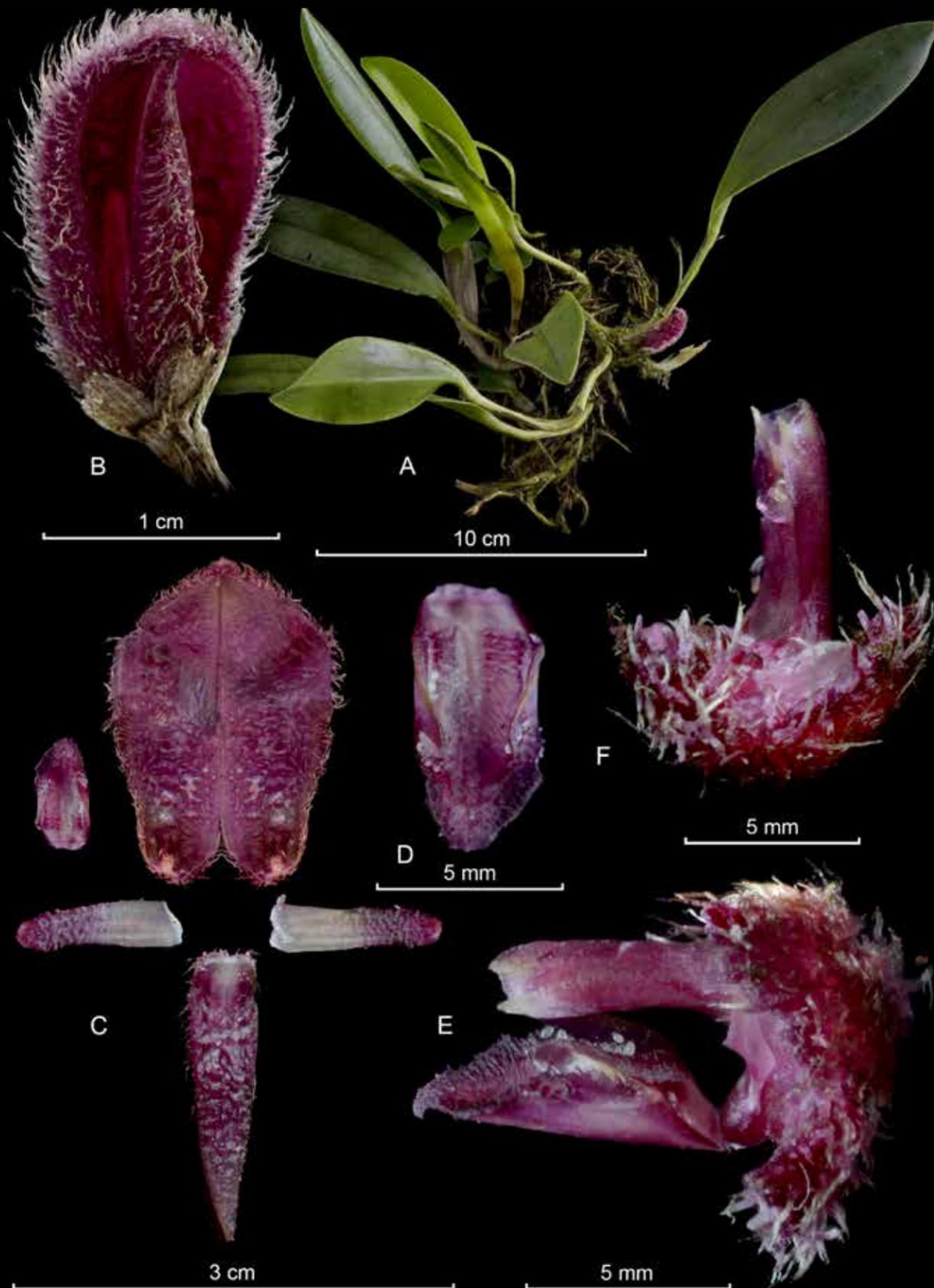
**Etymology:** From the Latin *lappiformis*, “like a bur”, in allusion to the appearance of the flower..

*Echinosepala lappiformis* is easily recognized by the red purple, long pubescent-echinate flowers born at the base of the stems, with the narrowly triangular dorsal sepal apically connate to the apex of the synsepal. *Echinosepala stonei* (Luer) Pridgeon & M.W.Chase has a free and obtuse dorsal sepal, while *E. balaeniceps* (Luer & Dressler) Pridgeon & M.W.Chase has a much larger flower with a high, longitudinal callus on the disc.

#### References:

Luer, C. A. 1992. Icones Pleurothallidarum IX. Systematics of *Myoxanthus*. Monographs in Systematic Botany from the Missouri Botanical Garden 44: 1–111.

Pupulin, F., N. Belfort-Oconitrillo, A. P. Karremans & D. Bogarín. 2020. *Flora Costaricensis Subtribui Pleurothallidinis Prodomus—Systematics of Echinosepala* (Orchidaceae). *Harvard Papers in Botany* 25(2): 155–190.



LCDP: *Echinosepala lappiformis* (A.Heller & L.O.Williams) Pridgeon & M.W.Chase. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Lip, adaxial view. E. Ovary, column and lip. F. Ovary and column, ventral view.

