

Masdevallia chontalensis Rehb. f., *Otia Bot. Hamburg.* 1:17. 1878.

Masdevallia diantha Schltr., *Beih. Bot. Centralbl.* 36(2):384. 1918.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 2-5 mm long, concealed by 1-2 tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf fleshy, coriaceous, very narrowly obovate to linear, the apex subacute to obtuse, tridenticulate, the base gradually narrowed into a channeled petiole, 3-7 cm long, 5-9 mm wide. Inflorescence a contracted, 2-flowered raceme (occasionally one flower follows the other) at the apex of a slender, terete peduncle 4-6 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract thin, 3-4 mm long; pedicels 4-5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals united basally for 5-6 mm to form a sepaline tube, white with yellow, thickened, filiform tails; dorsal sepal oblong, 12-15 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, including the 5-7 mm long tail; lateral sepals united into an oblong lamina, 11-15 mm long, 4-6 mm wide, including the 3-5 mm long tails; petals white, oblong-ovate, the apex obtuse, retuse, with a low, smooth, longitudinal callus near the lower margin, 3-3.3 mm long, 1-1.3 mm wide; lip yellow, fleshy, oblong, the apex brown, obtuse, dilated, erose, the base broadly bilobed, narrowly hinged beneath, the callus with a pair of longitudinal calli that converge above the middle, 3.5-4 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide; column white, 3 mm long, with a foot 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the Nicaraguan Province Chontales where the species was discovered.

TYPE: NICARAGUA: CHONTALES: *Seemann 180*.

DISTRIBUTION: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

NICARAGUA: MATAGALPA: near Santa Maria de Ostuma, alt. 1500 m, 20 Feb. 1963, *L. O. Williams 24684* (SEL).

PANAMA: COCLÉ: epiphytic in an old orange grove above El Valle, alt. 1000 m, 6 March 1976, *C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. L. Dressler 750* (SEL); PANAMA: epiphytic in cloud forest on Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m, 2 March 1976, *C. Luer, J. Luer & P. Taylor 784, 1277* (SEL); epiphytic, Cerro Azul, vicinity of Pacora, alt. 700 m, 18 May 1941, *A. S. B. Fairchild 2532* (SEL).

This relatively common little species is easily recognized by its small white flowers, usually produced in pairs at the apex of a slender peduncle which barely exceeds the leaves in length. The sepaline tube is about as long as the thick, yellow tails.

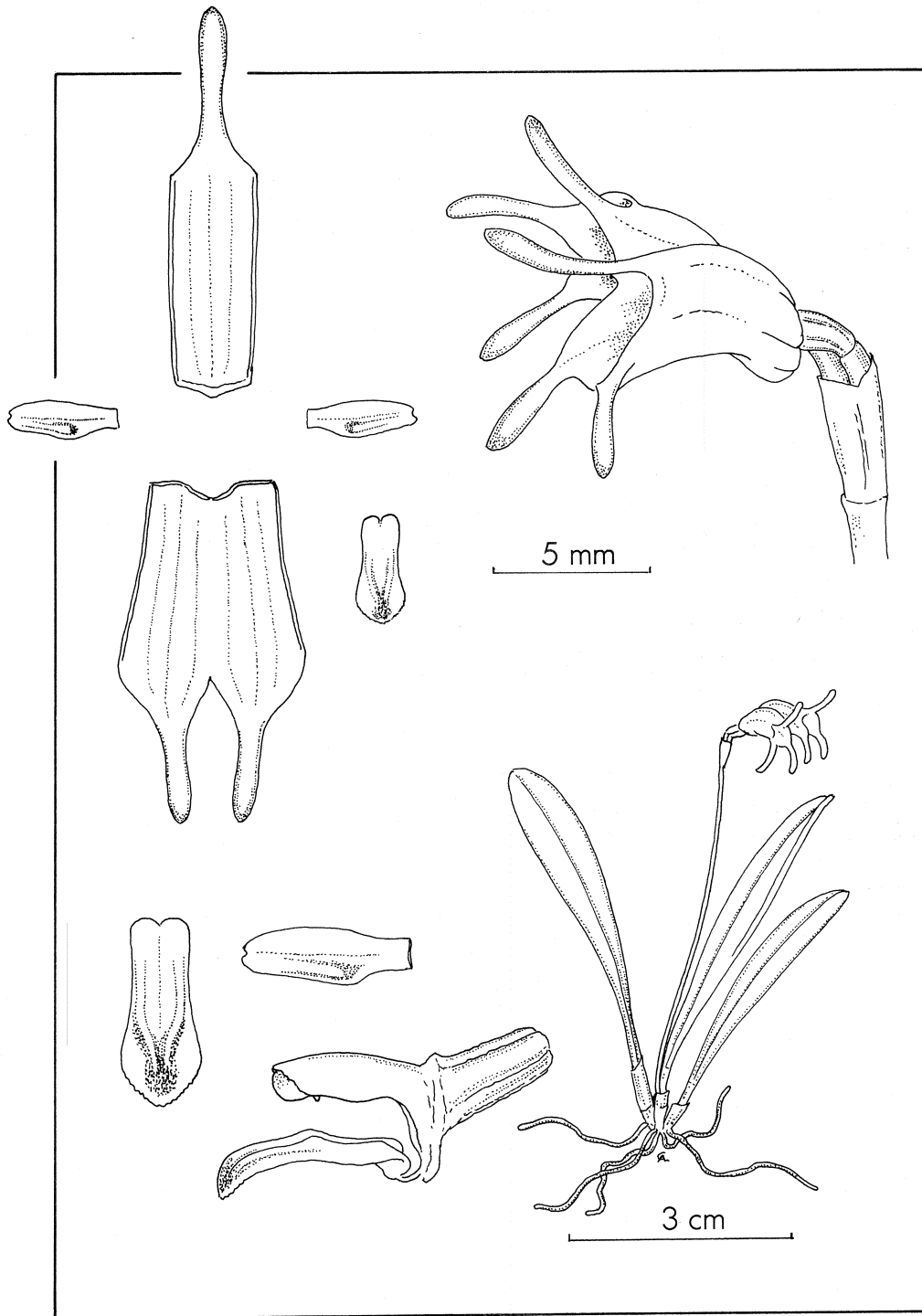


Figure 204. MASDEVALLIA CHONTALENSIS Rchb. f.

Masdevallia collina L. O. Wms., Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 11:93. 1942.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, fasciculate. Secondary stems stout, short, 1-2 cm long, mostly concealed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf fleshy, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, the apex subacute to obtuse, tridenticulate, the base attenuated into a channeled petiole, 5-11 cm long, 1.5-2 cm wide. Inflorescence a contracted, few-flowered raceme, the flowers produced singly, or occasionally doubly, at the apex of a slender, terete peduncle, 6-11 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract 5-10 mm long, pedicel about 5 mm long; ovary 5 mm long; sepals fleshy, united basally for about 14 mm to form a sepaline cup, maroon with yellow, filiform tails; dorsal sepal oblong, overall length about 33 mm, 9 mm broad, the tail 16 mm long; lateral sepals united to the base of the tails into a rhomboid lamina, overall length about 26 mm, 19 mm broad, the tails 8 mm long; petals white with purple flecks, oblong, 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex bluntly tridentate, with a longitudinal callus near the lower border, with 2 prominent projections, the basal projection subcylindrical and about 1 mm long, the second projection mammillate; lip fleshy, maroon, elliptical, the apex rounded, recurved, erose, the base truncate, narrowly hinged below, the disc with a pair of low, indistinct callosities mostly along the length, 6 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; column stout, white, 5 mm long, with a foot 2 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *collinus*, "of the hills" (*collis*, "hill"), in reference to the area above El Valle where it was discovered.

TYPE: PANAMA: COCLÉ: epiphytic, hills north of El Valle de Anton, alt. ca. 1000 m, 23 June 1940, *Allen 2158* (HOLOTYPE: AMES).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

PANAMA: COCLÉ: epiphytic in an old orange grove in the hills above El Valle, alt. 1000 m, 2 Sept. 1976, *C. Luer & H. Butcher 1100* (SEL).

Masdevallia collina is very similar to and closely related to some other species of *Masdevallia* (e.g. the Costa Rican *M. reichenbachiana* Endres). The most distinguishing feature is the pair of projections from the longitudinal callus of each petal, the basal projection about a millimeter long. The callus of the petals of *M. reichenbachiana* lacks the projections.

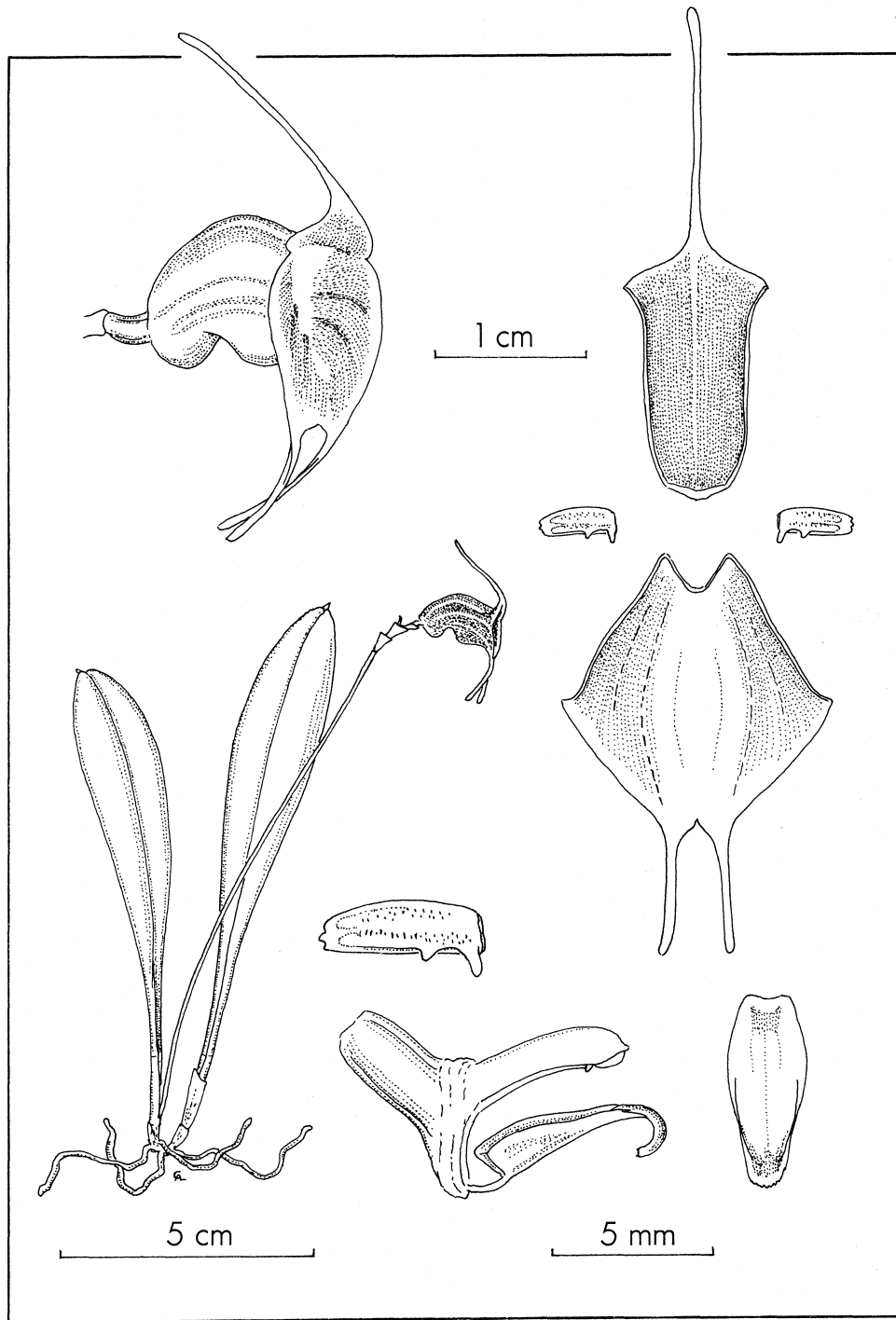


Figure 205. MASDEVALLIA COLLINA L. O. Wms.

Masdevallia erinacea Rchb. f., *Linnaea* 41:11. 1877.

Masdevallia echinocarpa Schltr., *Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih.* 7:78. 1920.

Scaphosepalum erinaceum (Rchb. f.) Schltr., l. c. 7:219. 1920.

Masdevallia horrida Teuscher & Garay, *Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull.* 29:23. 1960.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filamentous, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 2-5 mm long, clothed by 2 thin, tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf coriaceous, very narrowly obovate to linear, the apex subacute, tridenticulate, the base gradually narrowed into a linear petiole, 2-5 cm long, 2-3.5 mm wide. Inflorescence a few-flowered, contracted raceme, the flowers produced singly and successively, from the summit of a filiform, glabrous peduncle, 3-5 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract 3-4 mm long; pedicel 4-5 mm long; ovary echinate, 1.5 mm long; sepals greenish white, mottled with purple, united for 4-5 mm into a sepaline cup, obovate, the apices abruptly contracted into orange, clavate tails, echinate along the margins and along the carinate veins externally, 8-12 mm long including the tails, each 4.5-6 mm wide; petals obovate, the apex rounded, minutely toothed, with a triangular carina near the base on the inner surface, 2.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide; lip orange, flecked with brown-purple, fleshy, elliptical, with obtuse lateral angles, erose above the middle, the apex rounded, apiculate, the base bilobed-truncate, the disc verrucose, with a pair of thick, converging calli from the lateral angles, tricarinate beneath, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide; column stout, 2.5 mm long, with an equally long foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *erinaceus*, "the European hedgehog," in allusion to the markedly spiny exterior of the flower.

TYPE: *COLOMBIA*: without locality, *Roehl s.n.*

DISTRIBUTION: Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Ecuador.

PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic along the Altos de Pacora road, alt. ca. 650 m, 4 March 1976, *C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. L. Dressler 1014* (SEL).

COSTA RICA: without specific locality, 26 July 1952, *C. H. Landester 1601* (SEL).

Although the tufts of narrow leaves of this little species are very similar to many of the other minute *masdevallias*, the flowers, borne singly atop a slender peduncle above the leaves, are spectacular. A well-developed, gaping, sepaline cup, white and speckled with brownish purple, is covered by minute, forking bristles, and each of the three sepals is terminated by a bright orange, club-shaped tail.

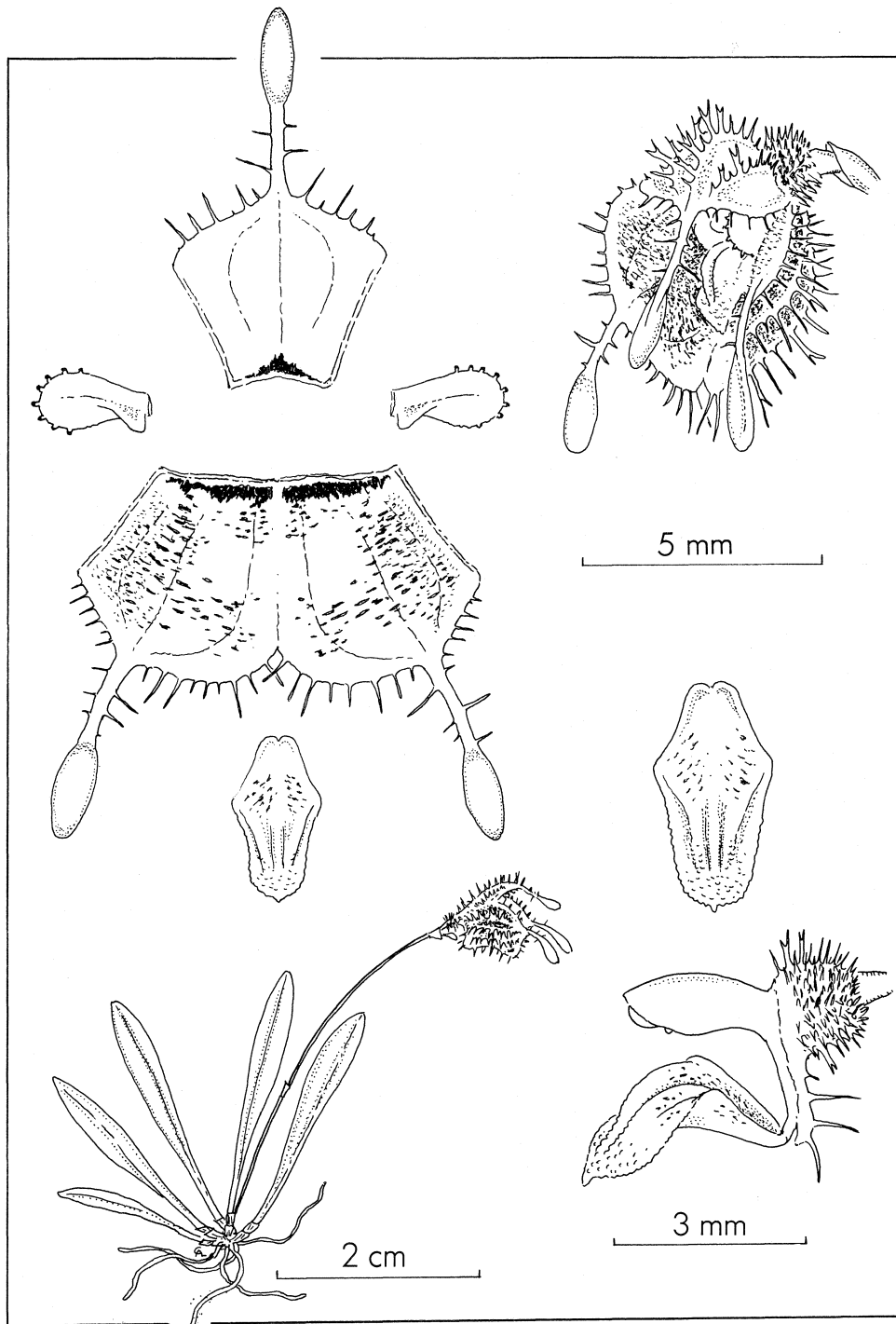


Figure 206. MASDEVALLIA ERINACEA Rehb. f.

Masdevallia erythrochaete Rchb. f., Gard. Chron. 18:392. 1882.

Masdevallia gaskelliana Rchb. f., Gard. Chron. 20:294. 1883.

Plant medium-sized, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems short, stout, terete, 1.5-4.5 cm long, unifoliate, largely concealed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. Leaf suberect, fleshy, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, subacute, tridenticulate, the base narrowly cuneate, indistinctly petiolate, 8-23 cm long, 1.5-2.8 cm wide. Inflorescence a short, few-flowered (3-4) raceme supported by a descending, creeping peduncle, 10-20 cm long, with remote bracts, from a node low on the secondary stem, the flowers nutant, produced singly at prolonged intervals; floral bract about 1 cm long; pedicel 1.5 cm long; ovary lightly verrucose, 4 mm long; sepals pale cream-colored, minutely dotted with purple and with a short, white pubescence within, ovate, abruptly contracted into slender, purplish caudae, 3.5-4 cm long, widespread, the blade of the dorsal sepal 15 mm long, 15 mm wide, united to the lateral sepals for about 5 mm, the lateral sepals connate to near the middle, 15 mm long, 22 mm wide together; petals oblong, the apex obtuse to rounded, denticulate, bivalved, papillose between the laminae, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, pale yellow with a purple spot; lip white, marked with pink, fleshy, panduriform-spatulate, the epichile suborbicular, concave, with dentate margins and with 3, sometimes branching lamellae radiating from the center, the hypochile deeply channeled centrally, with thin, erect, rounded, basal lobes, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide; column stout, 4 mm long, with a foot nearly as long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *erythros*, "red," and *chaete*, "long hair, or a bristle or seta," in reference to the long, reddish tails of the sepals.

TYPE: COSTA RICA: without known locality, imported by *Sander s.n.*

DISTRIBUTION: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in elfin forest on Cerro Hornito, alt. 1700 m, 15 Dec. 1976, *C. Luer, A. Luer, R. L. Dressler, N. H. Williams & F. L. Stevenson 1383* (SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 155-76-34, flowered in cult. 5 April 1977.

Previously known only from Guatemala and Costa Rica, this species has been identified from Nicaragua by Heller, and recently it has been found to be locally abundant in western Panama. Huge masses of the long, fleshy leaves engulf the mossy branches of the thickly growing cloud forest vegetation. The peduncles originate from low on the stems, and creep downward like a root through numerous obstacles (leaves, roots, branches, etc.) to emerge at some distance from the plant. The large, ivory-colored flower faces downward, the three long, reddish tails spread widely. The white, rounded apex of the lip dangles like a clapper within a bell. The shallow sepaline cup is lined with short, white hairs and minute dots of purple. The apex of the lip is dilated, concave, and toothed along the margin.

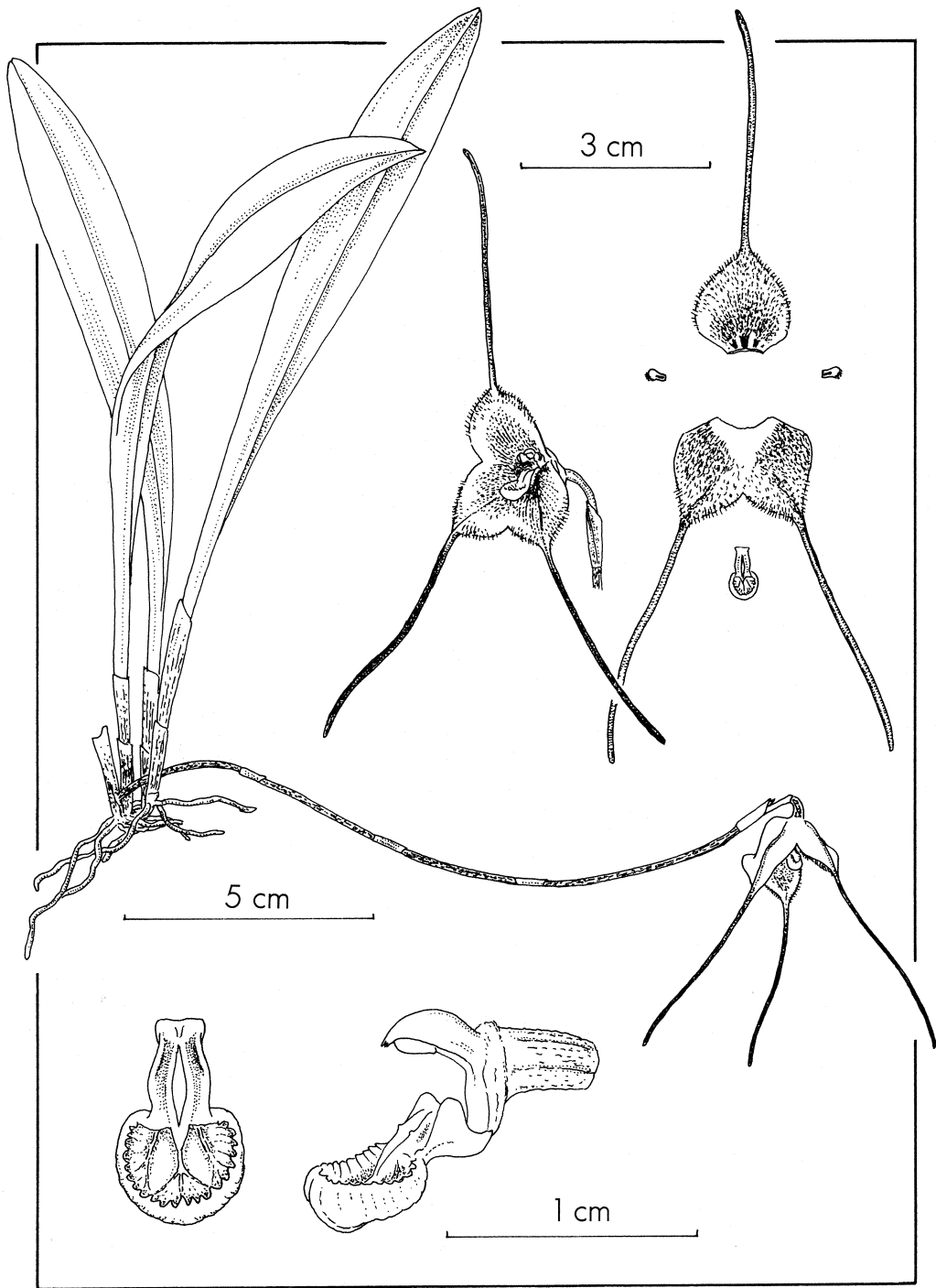


Figure 207. MASDEVALLIA ERYTHROCHAETE Rehb. f.

Masdevallia ophioglossa Rchb. f., *Otia Bot. Hamburgensia* 17:1878.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 5-12 mm long, more or less fasciculated, enclosed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf erect or suberect, fleshy, coriaceous, linear-obovate, subacute to obtuse, tridenticulate, the base attenuated into a narrow, channeled petiole, 3-4.5 cm long including the petiole, 3-5 mm wide. Inflorescence a solitary, non-resupinate flower borne at the apex of a slender, terete peduncle, 4-5 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract thin, transparent, oblique, 3 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary triolate, 1.5 mm long; sepals united to the middle into a curved sepaline tube, the apices free, recurved, thickened, linear, narrowly obtuse, pale yellow, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave below the middle, 8 mm long, 2 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate to near the middle into a concave, oblong lamina, about 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, forming a mentum above the uppermost column-foot, the caudae 5 mm long; petals transparent, elliptical, the base inserted obliquely on the column-foot, the apex acute, with a longitudinal callus along the labellar margin, 2.5 mm long, 0.8 mm wide; lip pale yellow-green, narrowly ovate, the apex narrowly obtuse, the margin minutely serrulate, the base bilobed and recurved to the attachment to the column-foot, the disc with a pair of low, parallel, longitudinal calli, 4 mm long, 1 mm wide; column slender, with a prominent, posteriorly directed, curved foot, total length 4 mm.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *ophis*, "snake," and *glossa*, "tongue," in allusion to the slender lip.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: PICHINCHA: near Quito, March 1877, *F. C. Lehmann s.n.*

DISTRIBUTION: Western Ecuador.

ECUADOR: PICHINCHA: epiphytic in trees along a stream near the new road between Quito and Santo Domingo, alt. ca. 2000 m, 13 March 1976, *C. Luer, J. Luer & P. Taylor 1052* (SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 43-76-221, flowered in cult. 8 Aug. 1976.

The non-resupinate flowers of this small species are unusual in *Masdevallia*. The abbreviated primary stems climb to produce the short secondary stems in ascending bundles, but the narrow, fleshy leaves are similar to those of the other small species in the genus. The single, little, white, tubular flower with three yellow, spreading tails is borne near the tops of the leaves. The mentum above the column-foot is visible near the top of the base of the sepaline tube. The long, narrow, pointed lip is hinged to an acutely curved column-foot.

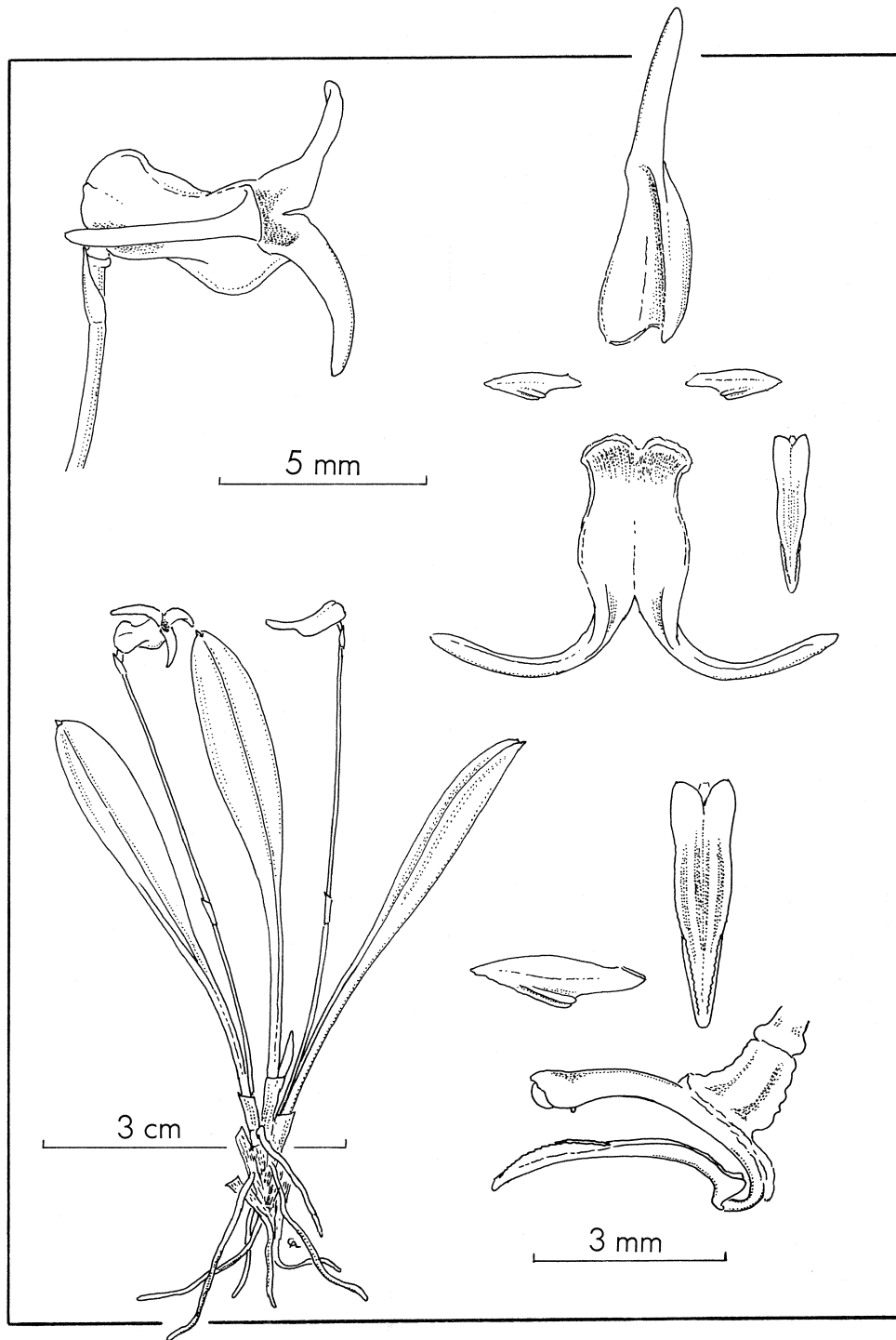


Figure 208. MASDEVALLIA OPHIOGLOSSA Rchb. f.

Masdevallia picturata Rchb. f., *Otia Bot. Hamburgensia* 16. 1878.

Masdevallia meleagris Rchb. f., *Xenia Orchid.* 1:198, t. 75. 1858; not Lindl.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 3-8 mm long, invested by 2-3 thin, tubular, imbricating sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf erect or suberect, coriaceous, fleshy, linear-obovate, subacute to obtuse, tridenticulate, the base attenuate into an indistinct, channeled petiole, 2.5-4 cm long, 3-5 mm wide. Inflorescence a solitary flower produced at the apex of a slender peduncle about 3 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract loose, infundibular, acute, 6 mm long; pedicel 4-5 mm long; ovary with 6 irregular, markedly undulating crests, 3 mm long; sepals translucent pale yellow with light purple spots, the apices attenuated into filiform tails, the dorsal sepal free, oblong, 8-9 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, overall length 35 mm, tricarinate, the lateral sepals united only at the base where they form a mentum below the column-foot, oblong, oblique, each 10-11 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, overall length 25 mm, unicarinate; petals oblong-elliptical, the apex tridentate, the middle tooth longest, with a yellow keel from the labellar margin near the base, the keel forking into 2, one running toward the apex, the other a short distance along the margin, 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; lip ovate-ligulate, fleshy, the sides recurved above the middle, the apex rounded, the sides dilated below the middle, the base indistinctly bilobed, narrowly hinged to the column-foot, the disc with a low pair of parallel calli near the middle, yellow, flecked with purple, 6 mm long, 3 mm wide; column terete, 5 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *picturatus*, "painted," referring to the appearance of the colored spots on the flower parts.

TYPE: (of *M. meleagris* Rchb. f.): VENEZUELA: DIST. FED.?: Caracas alt. ca. 2000 m, July 1850, *H. Wager* s.n.

DISTRIBUTION: Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Guyana.

PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in elfin cloud forest on Cerro Hornito, alt. ca. 1700 m, 15 Dec. 1976, *C. Luer*, *A. Luer*, *R. L. Dressler*, *N. H. Williams* & *F. L. Stevenson* 1365 (SEL).

Reichenbach first identified his species with Lindley's *Masdevallia meleagris*, finally giving it a name twenty years later. This little species has been known from both sides of Panama, but this is the first time it has been recorded from that country. Vegetatively it is indistinguishable from a multitude of other small species of the genus. The relatively large flowers are produced singly on a peduncle about as long as the leaves. The spotted sepals are essentially free, and the apices are attenuated into long, hair-like tails. The petals are three-pronged. The fleshy lip is oblong with rounded dilated margins below the middle.

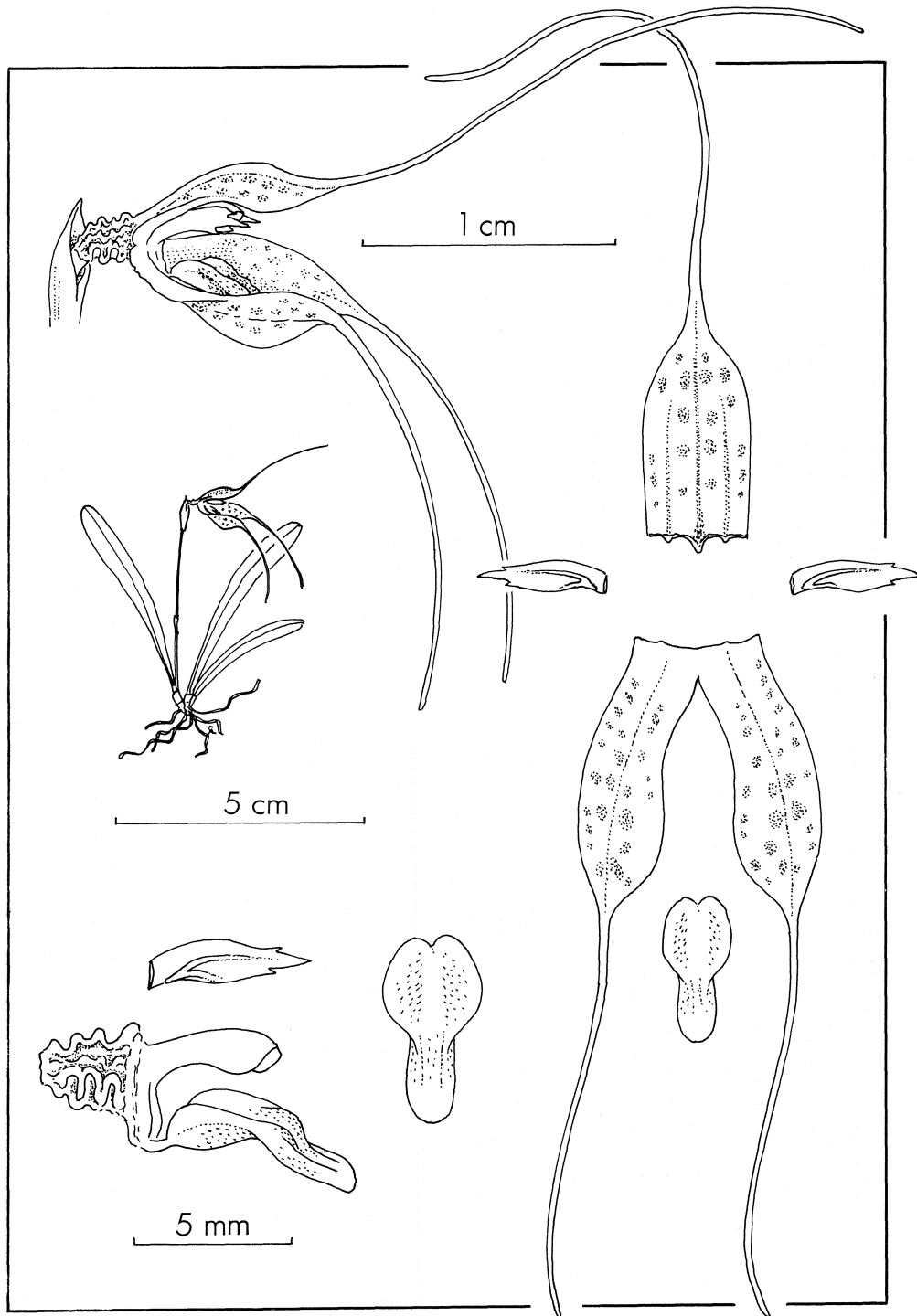


Figure 209. MASDEVALLIA PICTURATA Rchb. f.

Masdevallia pleurothalloides Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis abbreviatis unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis anguste ellipticis, flore solitario, pedunculo folio longiore, ovario ciliato cristato, sepalis membraneis libris oblongis acuminatis, ciliatis, punctatis, petalis albis oblongis carinatis apice tridentatis, labello aureo crasso oblongo obtuso bilamellato.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 5-7 mm long, concealed by 2-3 thin, loose sheaths, unifoliolate. Leaf coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, the apex subacute, tridenticulate, the base acuminate, narrowly cuneate, lightly channeled, 1.5-3.5 cm long, 4-8 mm wide. Inflorescence a solitary flower borne on a slender, glabrous peduncle, 2.5-4 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem, floral bract and pedicel each about 4 mm long; ovary coursed by 3 spiculate, serpentine crests, 1.5 mm long; sepals membranous, free spreading, cream-colored, with small, brownish spots, oblong, acuminate, acute, ciliate along the margins and veins, the dorsal sepal 9-10 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals slightly oblique, connate only at the base, with a thickened bright orange spot near the base, each 9-10 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; petals white, oblong, slightly curved, the apex tridentate, with a rounded callosity extending from near the base to above the middle, 4 mm long, 1 mm wide; lip bright orange, with red flecks below the middle, thick, oblong, the apex obtuse, channeled down the center between lamellae which originate from the lateral margins below the middle, and which terminate just below the apex, 6-7 mm long, 1.8 mm wide; column green, slender, 4 mm long, with a foot 2 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for superficial resemblance of the flower to a flower of the genus *Pleurothallis*.

TYPE: PANAMA: epiphytic in cloud forest on Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m. 12 Nov. 1967, R. L. Dressler 3155 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); same area, 2 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer & P. Taylor 1281 (SEL), flowered in cult 25 Nov. 1976.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

The very un-masdevallia-like flower of this species, with its free, widely spread, spotted sepals and protruding bright orange lip appears very much like a flower of *Pleurothallis*. Vegetatively, the plant is unremarkable except for its similarity to other species of *Masdevallia*, as well as to the horde of *Pleurothallis* related to *P. fulgens* Rchb. f., *P. brighamii* S. Wats., etc.

Morphologically, the petals and lip of the colorful flower are typical of the genus *Masdevallia*. The waxy petals are provided with a smooth, rounded keel coursing up the center from the labellar margin near the base. Near the middle of the fleshy lip, lamellae curve inward from the margins to terminate near the apex.

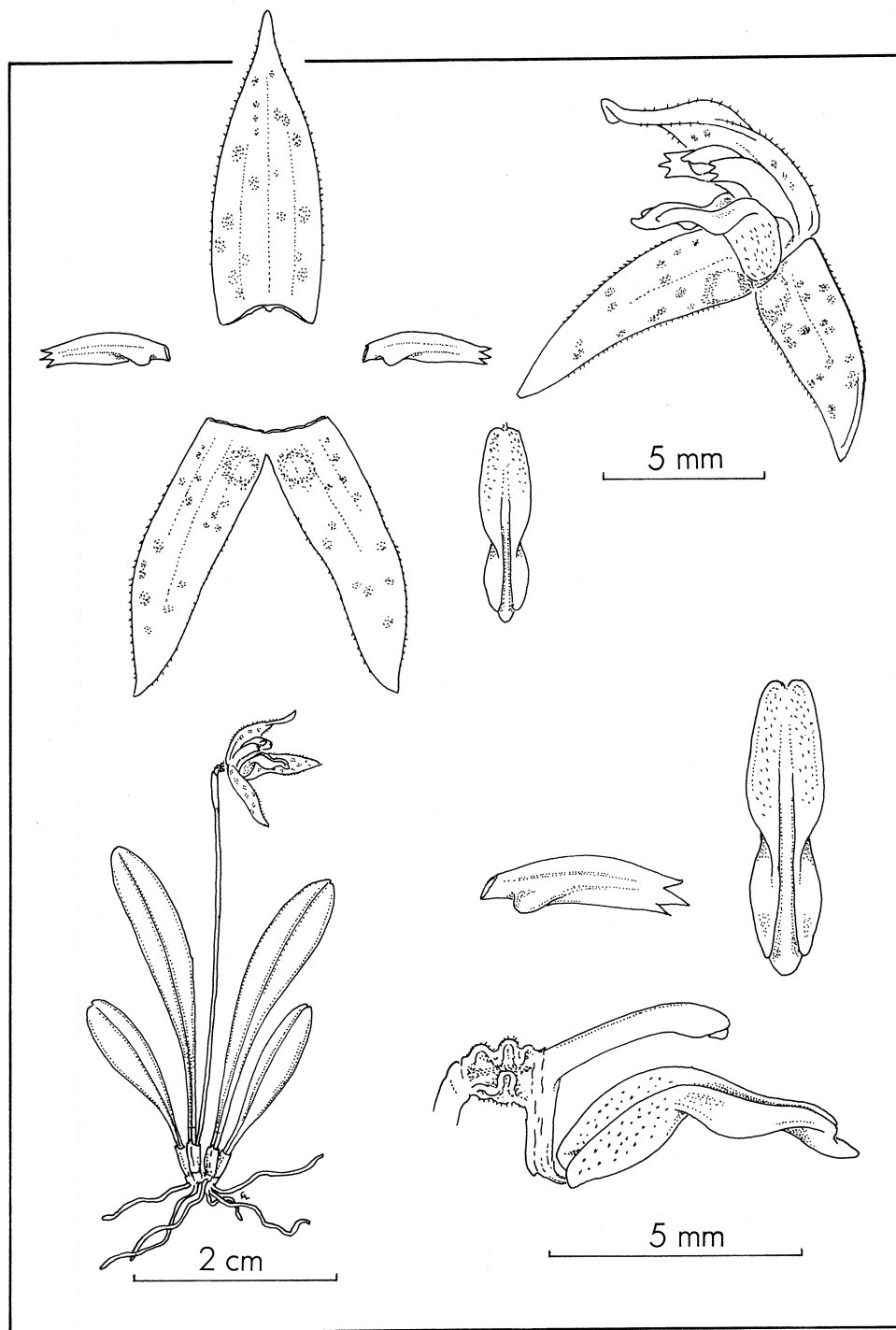


Figure 210. MASDEVALLIA PLEUROTHALLOIDES Luer

Masdevallia pusilla Rolfe, Kew Bull. 335. 1893.

Masdevallia johannis Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. 10:359. 1912.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems short, stout, terete, 1.5-3.5 cm long, unifoliate, mostly concealed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. Leaf suberect, thin, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, subacute, tridenticulate, the base very narrowly cuneate into an ill-defined, sulcate petiole, 6-13 cm long, 9-14 mm wide. Inflorescence a short, few-flowered (1-3) raceme terminating a descending, creeping peduncle, 7-10 cm long, with a few remote bracts, from a node low on the secondary stem, the flower nutant, produced singly at prolonged intervals; floral bract 5 mm long; pedicel 7 mm long; ovary lightly rugose, 2 mm long; sepals cream-colored, dotted with red, spiculate along the margins and subverrucose within, ovate, concave, abruptly contracted into non-spreading, slender, greenish caudae 8-10 mm long, the lamina of the dorsal sepal about 6 mm long, 6 mm wide, united to the lateral sepals for about 3 mm into a suborbicular cup, the lateral sepals connate to near the middle, concave, 8 mm long, 11 mm wide together; petals oblong, the apex obtuse to rounded, denticulate, bivalved, papillose between the laminae, 2 mm long, 1 mm wide, pale yellow with a purple spot; lip yellow, suffused with red, fleshy, panduriform, genuflexed near the middle, the epichile small, suborbicular, shallowly concave with smooth margins and with 3 lamellae radiating from the center, the hypochile wider than the epichile, deeply channeled centrally, with obtuse, lateral angles, 3.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide; column stout, 2.5 mm long, with a foot about as long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *pusillus*, "very small," referring to this species as the smallest of the section *Saccilabiatae*.

TYPE: habitat not recorded, importer not stated, cultivated at Glasnevin, Aug. 1891. (HOLOTYPE: K).

DISTRIBUTION: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and Ecuador.

PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in elfin forest on Cerro Hornito, alt. 1700 m, 15 Dec. 1976, C. Luer, A. Luer, R. L. Dressler, N. H. Williams & F. L. Stevenson 1601 (SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 155-76-33, flowered in cult. 22 April 1977.

Widespread in Central America to Ecuador, this species had not yet been recorded from Panama. It grows in elfin cloud forest in company with *Masdevallia erythrochaete* Rchb. f. and *M. picturata* Rchb. f. Similar to but smaller than *M. erythrochaete*, the little flower borne at the end of a creeping peduncle, faces downward, the tails barely parting from the opening of the suborbicular, sepaline cup. The hypochile is wider than the small, shallowly concave, smooth-margined epichile.

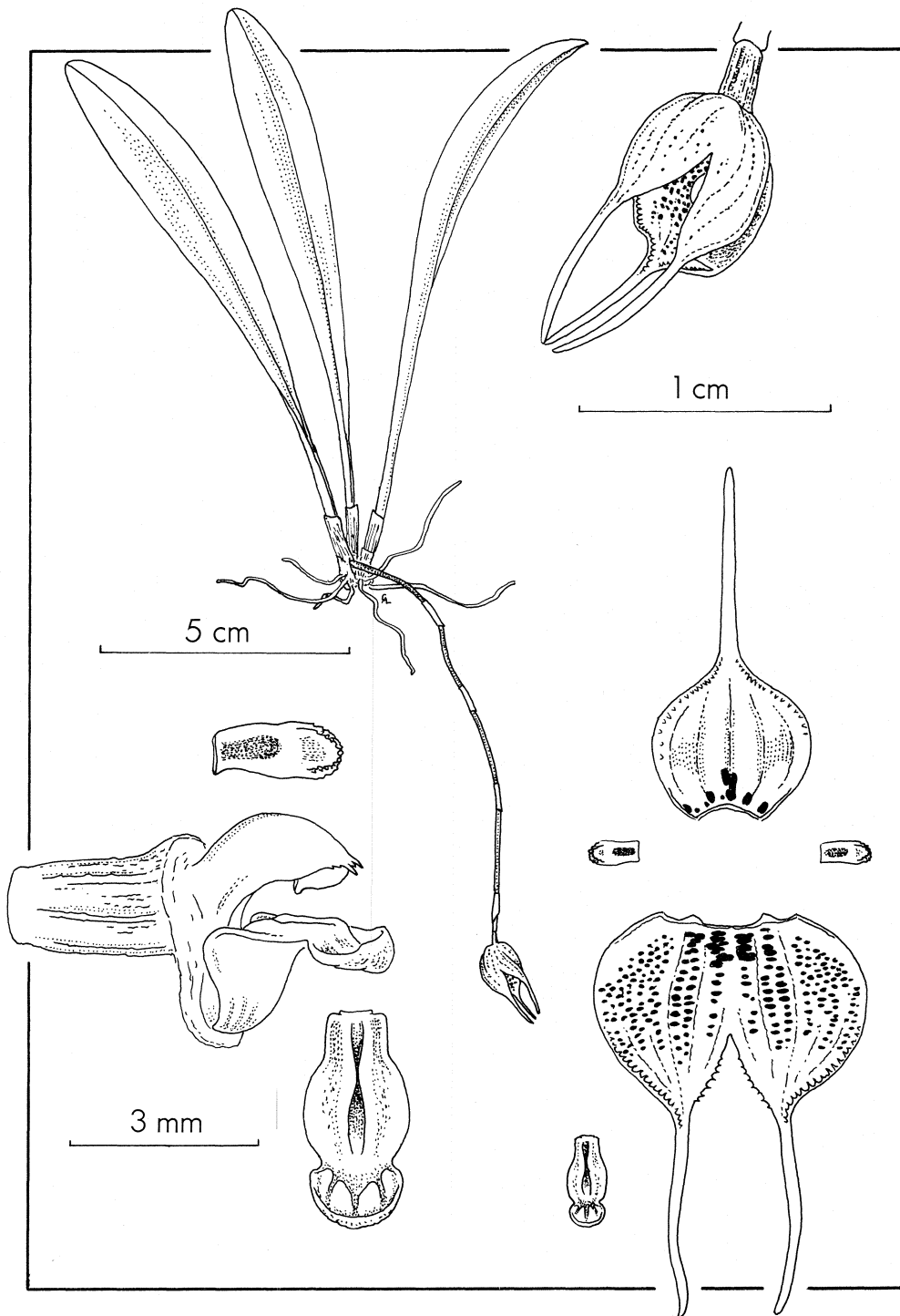


Figure 211. MASDEVALLIA PUSILLA Rolfe

Masdevallia triceratops Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec ab *M. pusilla* Rolfe differt floribus majoribus, caudis sepalorum brevioribus, epichilio labelli latiore.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 1-1.5 cm long, concealed by 2-3 short, tubular, invaginating sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf erect, coriaceous, fleshy, narrowly obovate, the apex obtuse, tridenticulate, the base narrowly cuneate, gradually petiolate, 8-17 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide. Inflorescence a descending, distantly few-flowered (1-3) raceme, 4-10 cm long, the peduncle slender, from a node on the secondary stem; flowers small, fleshy, not widely spread, produced singly and successively; floral bract 8-10 mm long; pedicel 5-10 mm long, ovary 4 mm long, with 3 green, wavy crests; sepals united into a shallow sepaline cup, cream-colored, heavily spotted and marked with red-purple, the caudae thickened and purple, glabrous externally, spiculate within, the spicules commonly branched, the dorsal sepal ovate-rhomboid, united basally for 2 mm with the lateral sepals, the apex acuminate, caudate, 16-18 mm long, 9 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into a concave, suborbicular, bicaudate synsepal, 12 mm long excluding the 2.5 mm long tails, 15 mm across after being spread; petals yellow-green, marked with purple, oblong, the apex rounded and bivalved, tuberculose between the apical plates, 3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; lip yellow-orange, marked with pink, thick, oblong-obovate, geniculate, the apex dilated and rounded into an indistinct epichile, shallowly concave, verruculose and rugose, the margin minutely irregular, with a median crest beneath, the hypochile with erect, broadly rounded angles, deeply cleft centrally, flanked by a pair of lamellae which extend forward onto the epichile; column cylindrical, white, 4 mm long, bidentate above the anther, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *triceratops*, "three-horned-faced" (*tri*-, "three-," *ceras*, "horn," and *ops*, "eye, face"), in allusion to the resemblance to the celebrated dinosaur.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: MANABI: epiphytic near the summit of Cerro Montecristi, alt. 650 m, 1 April 1961, *C. H. Dodson 383* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: without definite locality, cultivated at Puyo by *Joe Brenner 5* (SEL), flowered in cult. 20 March 1976.

This species is probably endemic in the mountains of western Ecuador. It is apparently allied to the Central American *Masdevallia pusilla* Rolfe. Vegetatively it is similar to many others in the *Chimaeroideae* section. The raceme creeps downward and produces at intervals a rigid, red-purple-spotted flower. The sepaline cup is shallow, and the sepals do not spread widely, the three short tails pointing more or less forward, so that the flower looks like a small rhinoceros beetle resting upon the bark. The bivalved petals are typical of the section. The division of the thick, geniculate lip into an epichile and hypochile is indistinct. The rounded epichile is broader, shallowly concave and superficially rugose; the hypochile is deeply cleft.

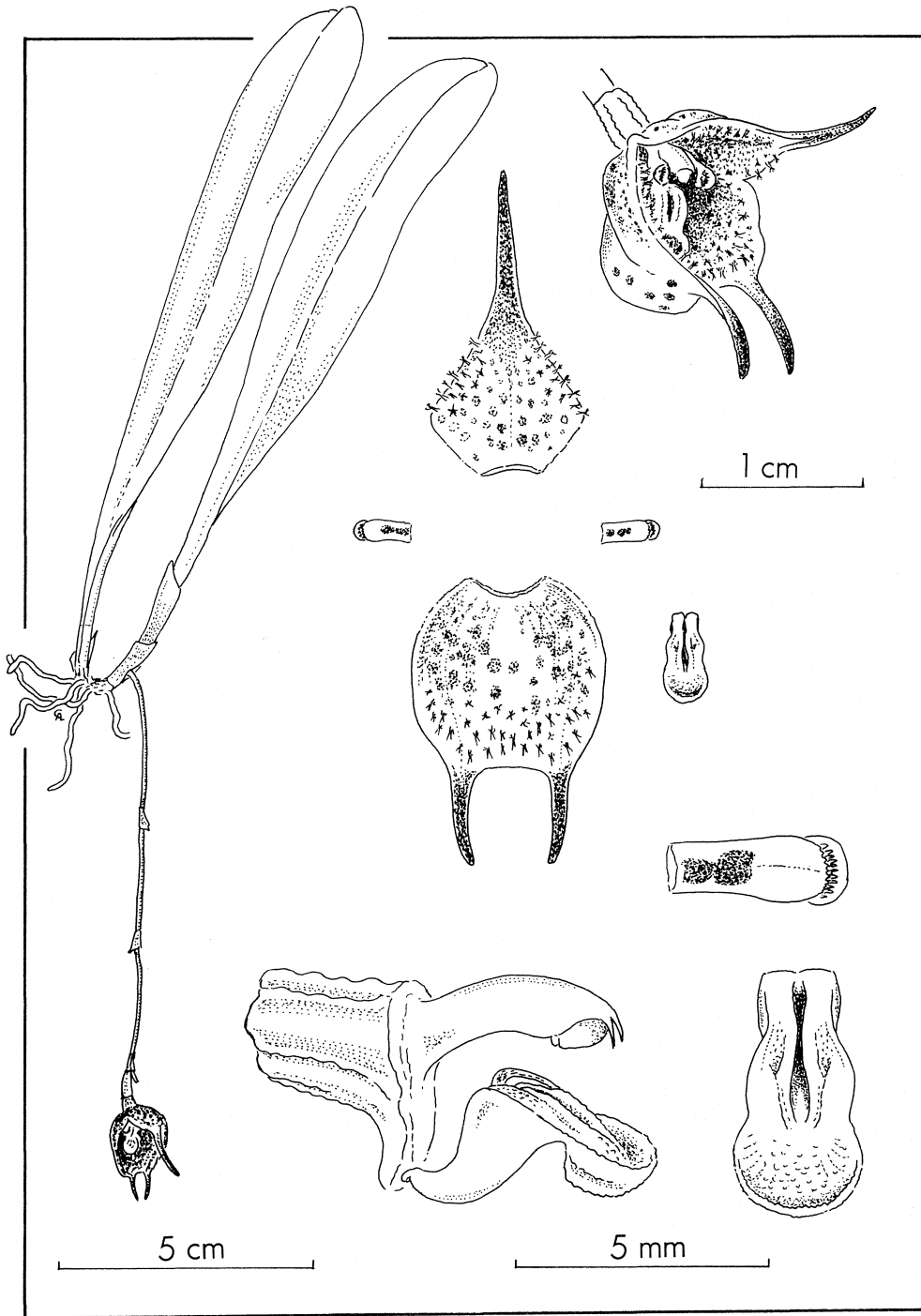


Figure 212. MASDEVALLIA TRICERATOPS Luer