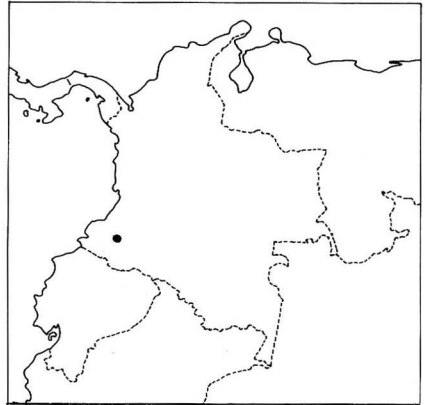


Dracula exasperata is one of the more unusual species of the genus. It was discovered by Brother Octavio Ospina of Sibundoy in an orchid-rich valley on the eastern slopes of the Andes in southeastern Colombia in the department of Putumayo where it is apparently endemic.

The long, narrow leaves are not distinctive, nor are the descending, successively few-flowered peduncles. The flowers, however, are instantly recognizable. The sepals, densely pubescent within, are greenish white with dark purple suffusion on the inner halves. The oblong lateral sepals diverge 180°. The small lip is thick and the epichile is acutely deflexed upon the hypochile. The outer surface of the epichile and the column are minutely spiculate.



***Dracula fafnir* Luer, sp. nov.**

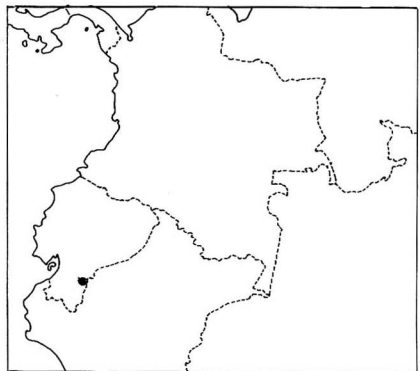
Ety: Named for *Fafnir*, a dragon of an Icelandic saga.

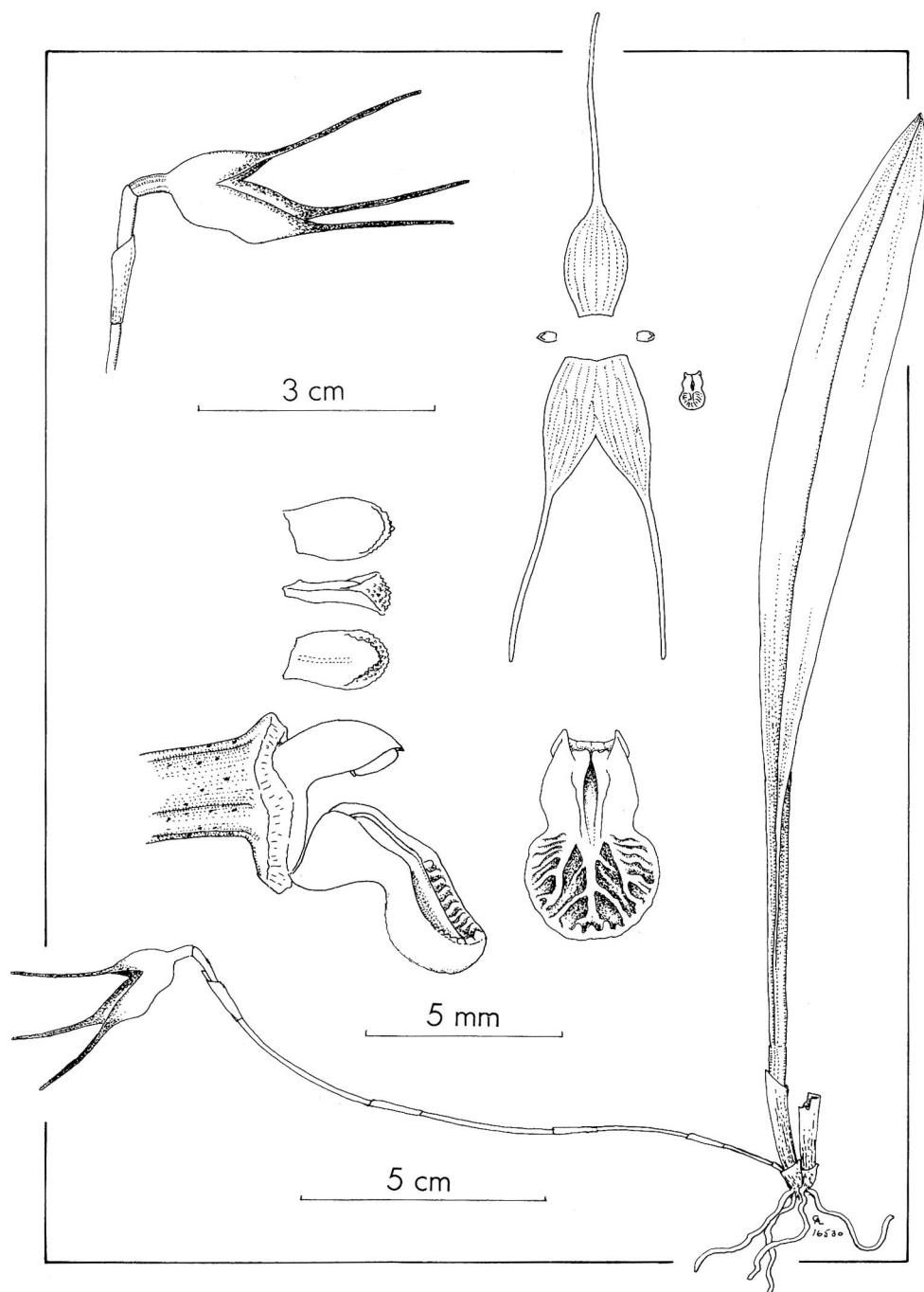
Planta mediocris vel grandis, foliis angustis acutis longipetiolatis, floribus cupulatis sepalis angustis profunde fissis caudis gracilibus, labelli crassi epichilio suborbiculari concavo lamellis radiantibus.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2.5-4.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, tall-carinate, narrowly elliptical, long-petiolate, acute, 10-19 cm long including the petiole ca. 5 cm long, 1-2.2 cm wide, the base narrowly cuneate into the conduplicate base. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively few-flowered raceme, borne by a horizontal to descending, sparsely bracted peduncle 12-14 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract, tubular, oblique, 10-11 mm long; pedicel 19 mm long; ovary 5 mm long, minutely pitted, round in cross-section; **sepals** dull white, suffused with red-brown along the margins and toward the apices, sparsely shortly pubescent within, the dorsal sepal elliptical, subacute, 14 mm long, 8 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 5 mm to form a cupped flower, the apex contracted into a slender, forwardly directed, red-brown tail 26 mm long, the lateral sepals elliptical, oblique, 18-20 mm long, 14 mm wide, connate 10 mm into a forked lamina with the angle between the blades acute, the apices acute, contracted into tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; **petals** white, cartilaginous, broadly obovate, 2.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex bivalvate, papillose between the laminae, the inner lamina obtuse, denticulate, the outer lamina rounded; **lip** pale yellow, subpandurate, 5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the epichile suborbicular, inflated, concave, 3 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, with a central carina flanked by multibranched, lesser carinae, the hypochile subovoid, 2 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, with erect, rounded, marginal angles, cleft centrally, the concave base hinged to the column-foot; **column** white, stout, semiterete, 3 mm long, with a thick foot equally long.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Zamora-Chinchipe: probably Cordillera del Condor, alt. ca. 1400 m, imported out of flower with *Dracula simia*, collected by D. D'Alessandro, 1987, flowered in cultivation at J & L Orchids, 922-395, Dec. 1992, *C. Luer 16530* (Holotype: MO).

A plant of this not-too-handsome species was obtained in 1987 by J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, mixed with imported plants of *Dracula simia* from Dennis D'Alessandro. It did not flower until 1992. *Dracula simia* is known to be local-



Plate 31. *Dracula fajnir* Luer