

***Dracula lafleurii* Luer & Dalström, sp. nov.**

Ety: Named in honor of Rolf La Fleur of Stockholm, Sweden, co-discoverer of this species.

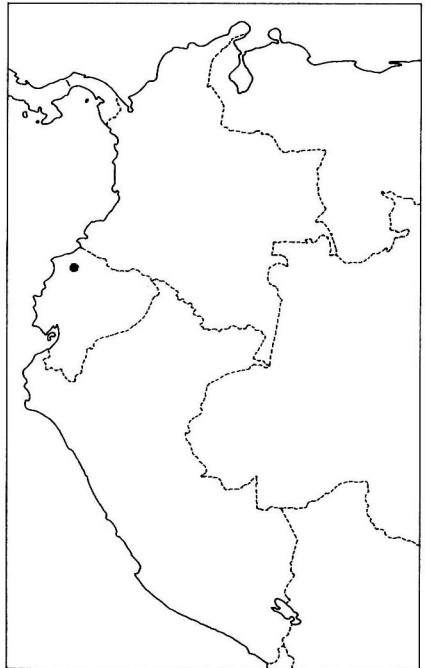
Species haec *Draculae woolwardiae* (Lehm. ex Krzl.) Luer affinis, sed labelli epichilio suborbiculari profunde concavo distinguitur.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 4-5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, carinate, narrowly obovate, acute, 15-19 cm long including an indistinct petiole 2-3 cm long, 2.5-3 cm wide, the base narrowly cuneate into the conduplicate, subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively few-flowered raceme, borne by a horizontal to descending, sparsely bracted peduncle 14-19 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract, tubular, oblique, 10-15 mm long; pedicel 15-25 mm long; ovary 5 mm long, round in cross-section; **sepals** dull white, yellowish toward the base, with coalescing, red-brown spots, especially toward the apices and bases, with a long, white pubescence within, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, 25 mm long, 21 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 7-8 mm to form a slightly cupped, widely spread flower, the apex subacute, contracted into a slender, erect, red-brown tail 8-9 cm long, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 30 mm long, 23 mm wide, connate 12-13 mm into a broad lamina with a shallow mentum, the apices acute, contracted into tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; **petals** white, marked with red-brown, cartilaginous, oblong, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex bivalvate, papillose between the laminae, the inner lamina obtuse, denticulate, the outer lamina rounded, recurved; **lip** pink, spatulate, 11.5 mm long, 9 mm wide, the epichile transversely subglobose, inflated, deeply concave, 7.5 mm long, 9 mm wide, 6 mm deep, filled with dark pink, radiating, branching lamellae, the hypochile suboblong, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, with erect, obtuse, marginal angles, cleft centrally between a pair of plates, the concave base hinged to the column-foot; **column** yellow, stout, semiterete, 4 mm long, with a stout foot equally long.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Imbabura: epiphytic in wet forest in the Los Cedros reserve, alt. 1450 m, 27 Jan. 1993, *S. Dalström, T. Höijer, H. Wanntorp & M. Read 1815* (Holotype: MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 16589; above Garcia Moreno, alt. 1800 m, 1 Mar. 1992, *S. Dalström, R. La Fleur & J. Sönnemark 1594* (MO), same collection, flowered in cultivation by R. La Fleur, July 1992, *S. Dalström 1692* (MO).

This species was discovered in 1992 in a remote, wet, primary forest in north-western Ecuador by a team of Swedish botanical researchers led by Stig Dalström. Plants flowered in cultivation in the collections of Rolf La Fleur in Stockholm and Jan Sönnemark in Halmstad, Sweden, later that year. The species was discovered again in two other, nearby localities in 1993. It grows in the same forest with several other species of *Dracula* including *Dracula woolwardiae* to which it is most similar. Colonies of the two species were noted to grow separately without intermediate individuals.

Dracula lafleurii is distinguished by the relatively large flowers with long-tailed, acute sepals densely spotted with rust brown, especially toward the apices and bases. The sepals are also long-pubescent within. The pink suborbicular epichile of the lip is most distinguishing. The deeply saccate cavity contains several radiating, branching, darker pink lamellae that curve up to the thin margin as tiny teeth.



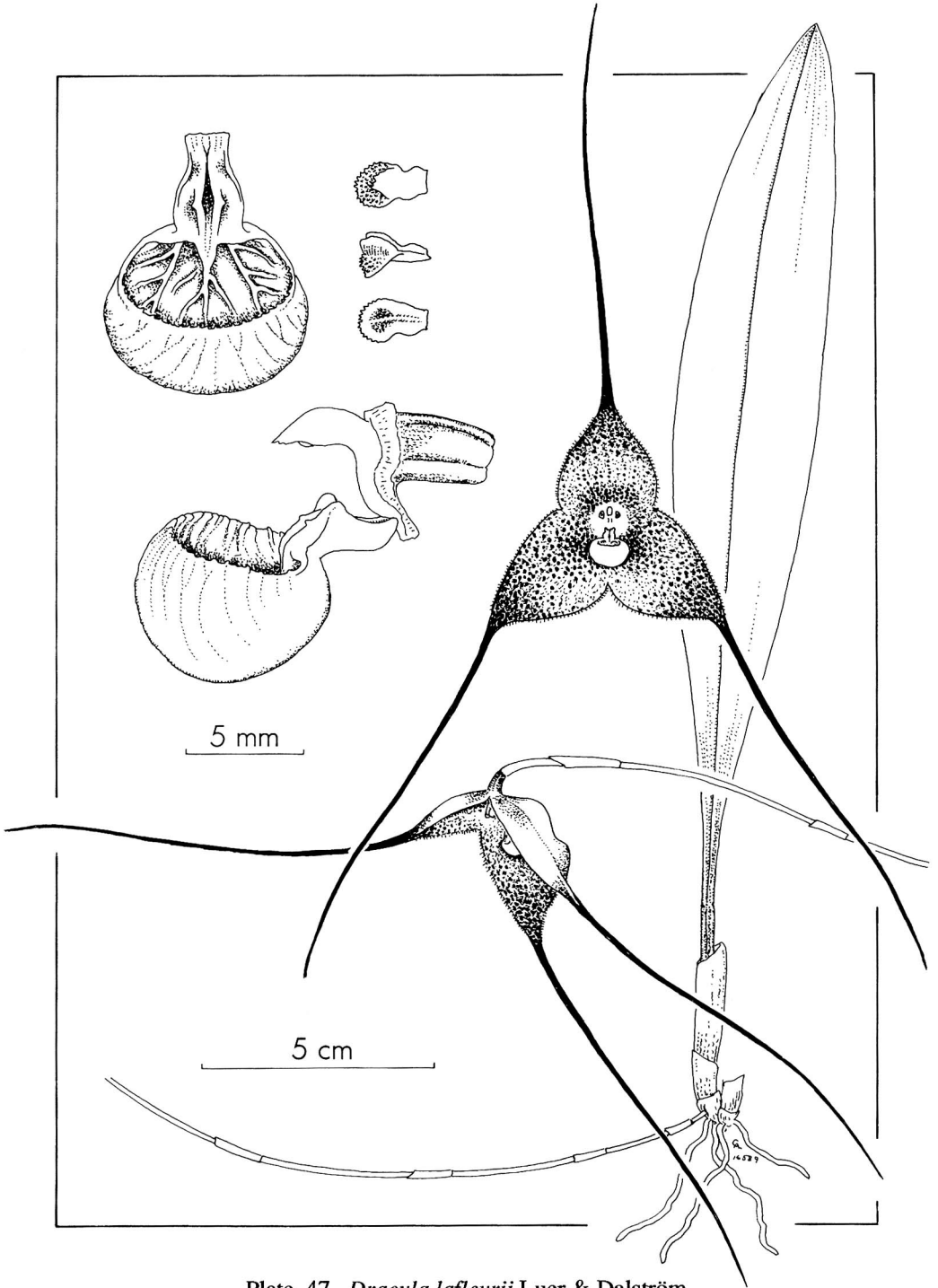


Plate 47. *Dracula lafleurii* Luer & Dalström