

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

Ety: Named in honor of Dr. Morley Read of Cornwall, England, supervisor of the Los Cedros Reserve Project, and original discoverer of this species.

Planta mediocris vel grandis, foliis acutis longipetiolatis, floribus rotundatis, sepalis intus nigropunctatis longipubescentibus obtusis, caudis brevibus nigris, labelli epichilio suborbiculari profunde concavo lamellae radiantibus.

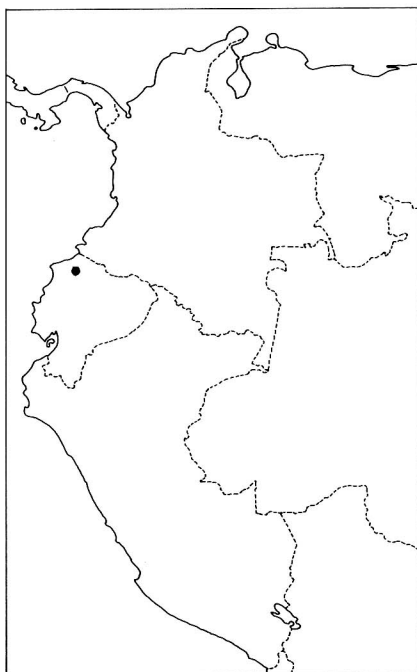
Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 4–4.5 cm long, enclosed by 2–3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, carinate, narrowly obovate, long-petiolate, acute, lightly acuminate, 20–23 cm long including the petiole 5–7 cm long, 2.5–3 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 10–16 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract, tubular, oblique, 7 mm long; pedicel 11 mm long; ovary 6 mm long, minutely verrucose, round in cross-section; **sepals** dull white, intensely dotted with blackish purple, especially toward the apices and bases, with a long, white pubescence within, the dorsal sepal transversely ovate, 12 mm long, 19 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 8 mm to form a round, shallowly cupped flower, the broadly rounded apex contracted into a slender, forward, blackish purple tail 15–19 mm long, the lateral sepals broadly ovate to orbicular, oblique, 16 mm long, 16 mm wide, connate 10 mm into a broad lamina with a shallow mentum, the apices broadly rounded, contracted into tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; **petals** white, marked with black, cartilaginous, oblong, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex bivalvate, papillose between the laminae, the inner lamina obtuse, denticulate, the outer lamina rounded, recurved; **lip** pale yellow, spatulate, 7.5 mm long, 6.5 mm wide, the epichile transversely subglobose, inflated, deeply concave, 4.5 mm long, 6.5 mm wide, 3 mm deep, filled with pink, radiating, branching lamellae, minutely verrucose externally, the hypochile subovoid, 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** white, stout, semiterete, 5 mm long, with a stout foot equally long.

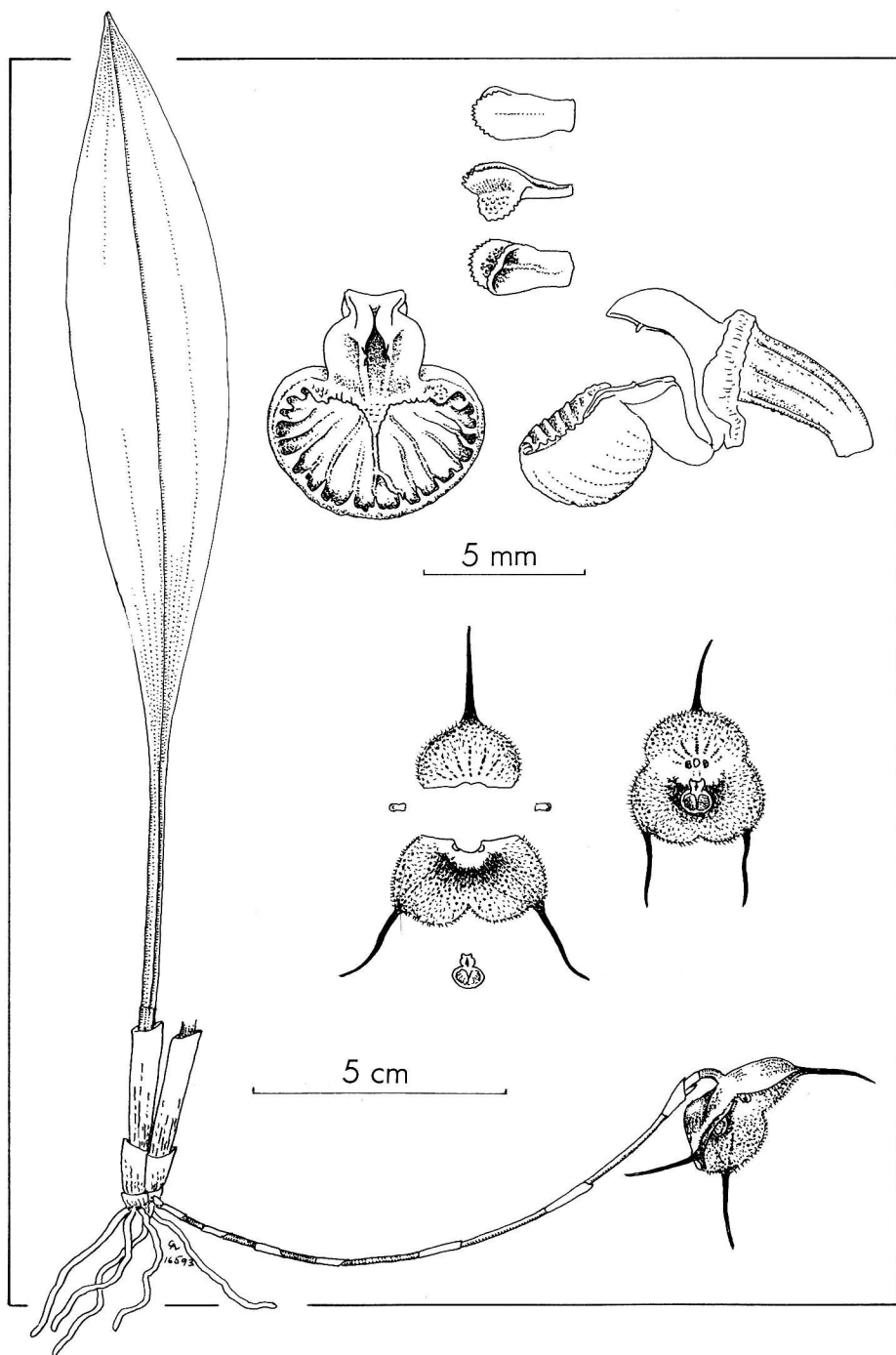
ECUADOR: Prov. of Imbabura: epiphytic in wet forest in the Los Cedros reserve, alt. 1900 m, 22 Jan. 1993, S. Dalström, T. Höjler, H. Wanntorp & M. Read 1723B (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 16593.

First found and recognized as a new species by Morely Read, this species occurs abundantly in a remote, wet, primary forest in northwestern Ecuador. Other species of the genus present in the same forest include *D. alcitoë*, *D. chiroptera*, *D. felix*, *D. hirtzii*, *D. lafleuri*, *D. mantissa*, *D. marsupialis*, *D. polyphemus*, *D. radio-sa*, *D. venosa*, *D. vespertilio* and *D. woolwardiae*.

Dracula morleyi is distinguished by the long-petiolate, acute leaves and a small, round, shallowly cupped flower with short, slender, blackish tails. The sepals are long-pubescent and intensely dotted with purple-black within. The epichile of the lip is suborbicular and deeply concave with numerous, radiating, branching, complete and incomplete lamellae.

This species is superficially similar to the Colombian *D. carcinopsis*, but *D. morleyi* differs vegetatively in the acute, long-petiolate leaves. The flowers of the two species are of similar size and color, but the round, shallowly cupped flower with the multiple black dots within, as well as the transverse, deeply concave epichile of the lip distinguish *D. morleyi*.



Plate 58. *Dracula morleyi* Luer & Dalström