

***Dracula ripleyana* Luer, sp. nov.**

Inter species generis *Draculæ* Luer foliis mediocribus vel grandis, pedunculo gracili horizontali, floribus parvis albis breviter pubescentibus intus area centrali purpurea et labello niveo epichilio 3.5 mm lato suborbiculari concavo tricarinato margine dentato incurvo distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems channeled, stout, unifoliate, 2.5-4 cm long, concealed by 3 close, imbricating, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, keeled dorsally along the midrib, narrowly obovate, 14-25 cm long, 1.6-2.5 cm wide, the apex acute, tridenticulate, gradually narrowed below to the sulcate base. Inflorescence a successively few-flowered (up to 4 small flowers) raceme borne by a slender, sparsely bracted, more or less horizontal peduncle 8-12 cm long including the raceme, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract 7 mm long; pedicel 10-12 mm long; ovary 5 mm long, brown, subverrucose; sepals white, suffused with purple and glabrous externally, white and shortly pubescent within, spotted and suffused with purple on the inner halves, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, 8 mm long, 9 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 3 mm to form a shallowly cupped flower, the obtuse apex contracted into a slender, purple tail 3.5 cm long, the lateral sepals

ovate, oblique, each 11 mm long, 10 mm wide, connate 5 mm to form a shallow mentum, the subacute apices contracted into tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; petals white, marked with purple-brown, oblong, 3 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the apex bivalvate, the inner lamina denticulate, the outer lamina rounded, papillose between; lip white, spatulate, 7.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the hypochile oblong, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, with obtusely rounded, erect marginal angles, cleft centrally, the concave base hinged to the column-foot, the epichile suborbicular, concave, 4 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the anterior margin incurved, verrucose externally, the concavity coursed by 3 central carinae with several incomplete secondary elevated veins ending in marginal teeth; column white, suffused with brown, semiterete, 3.5 mm long, with a stout foot 2.5 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Harold R. Ripley of San Francisco, California, in whose orchid collection this species was discovered.

TYPE: *COSTA RICA*: without locality or collector, originally cultivated by Beaufort Fisher, subsequently by Harold Ripley in San Francisco, California, flowered in cult. 22 March and 20 Aug. 1979, *C. Luer 4041* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Costa Rica.

Unfortunately, the collection data of this small-flowered species is unknown except for the country of origin. It was originally cultivated as *Masdevallia astuta* Rchb. f. in the collection of the late Beaufort Fisher. Harold Ripley has successfully cultivated the plant for the past several years.

Dracula ripleyana may be recognized by the small white flower with a dark purple center, and a short white pubescence lines the inside of the sepals. The epichile of the small white lip is concave with an incurved, denticulate margin.