

***Dracula trinympharum* Luer, sp. nov.**

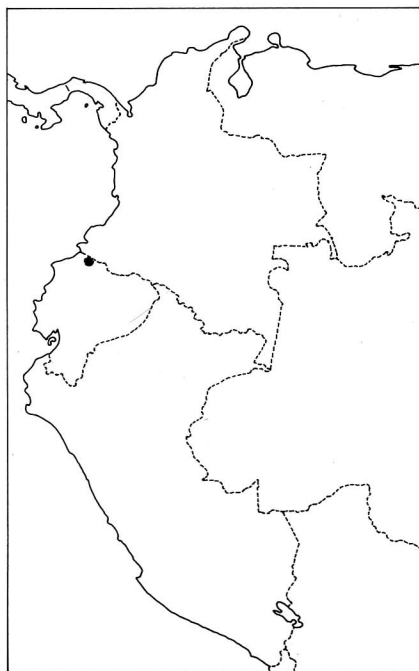
Ety.: From the Latin *trinympharum*, "of three nymphs," referring to the three proprietors of J & L Orchids, Easton, Connecticut, who, with Alexander Hirtz, discovered this species.

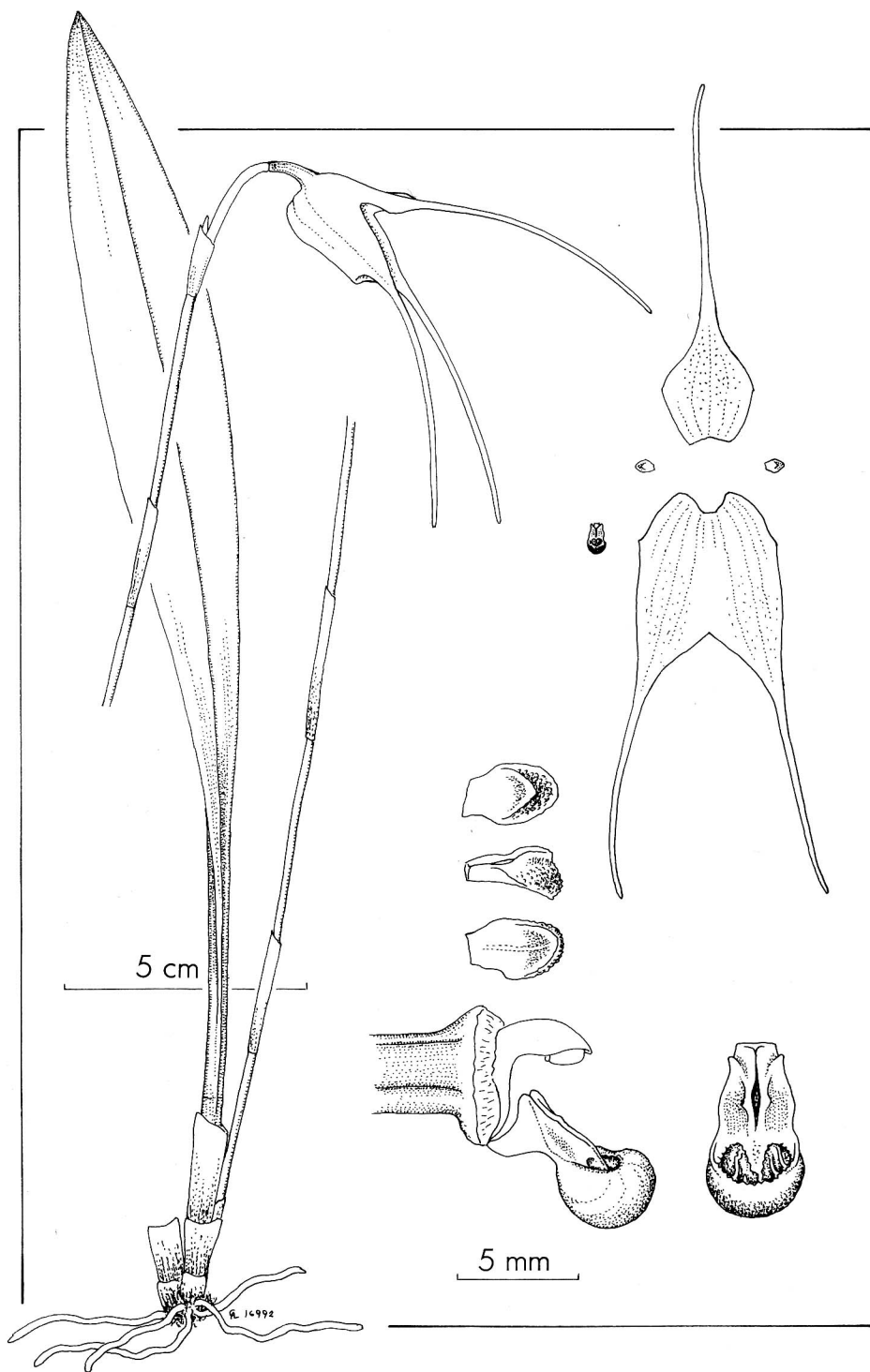
Species haec *Draculae hawleyi* Luer affinis, sed sepalis albis intus sparsim et breviter minute rubropapillois lateralibus profunde connatis et labello purpureo epichilio parvo saccato differt.

Plant large in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 3-4 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, carinate, narrowly linear-obovate, acute, 20-34 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into the conduplicate, subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively few-flowered raceme, borne by an erect, sparsely bracted peduncle 20-29 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract, tubular, oblique, 10-15 mm long; pedicel 25-30 mm long; ovary 8-10 mm long, round in cross-section; **sepals** yellowish white, with scattered red, cellular papillae within, the dorsal sepal ovate, 25 mm long, 18 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 11 mm to form a broad, sepaline cup, the apex obtuse, contracted into a slender tail 5 cm long, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 40-45 mm long, connate 20-25 mm into an oblong, bifid lamina 28 mm wide, with a broad mentum, the apices acute, contracted into tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; **petals** ivory, marked with purple, cartilaginous, obovate, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex bivalvate, papillose between the laminae, the inner lamina short, acute, the outer lamina obtuse, recurved; **lip** red-purple, obscurely pandurate, 7 mm long, 4 mm wide, the epichile suborbicular, deeply concave, inflated with the anterior margin involute, 3.5 mm long, 4 mm wide, with minutely denticulate margins, with a central, verrucose carina and 2-3 incomplete lamellae radiating on either side, the hypochile indistinctly demarcated from the epichile, suboblong, 4 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, with erect, narrowly rounded, marginal angles, cleft centrally between a pair of plates, the concave base hinged to the column-foot; **column** white, stout, semiterete, 4 mm long, with a stout foot equally long.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Carchi: epiphytic in cloud forest above Maldonado, alt. ca. 2000 m, Nov. 1991, flowered in cultivation at J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, Sept. 1993, C. Head, M. Webb, L. Winn & A. Hirtz 993-434 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 16992.

This species is the latest of numerous, endemic members of the genus to be discovered in the valley west of Tulcán toward Maldonado in northernmost Ecuador. It was found out of flower by Alexander Hirtz, and it flowered later at J & L Orchids in Connecticut. It is related to the group of large species with more or less erect peduncles as characterized by *D. dalstroemii*, *D. gigas*, *D. hawleyi* and *D. levii*. It is most similar to *D. hawleyi*, and it is distinguished from it as well as from all the others by the deeply connate lateral sepals, sepals studded within with red papillae, and a smaller, red-purple lip with a small, saccate epichile.



Plate 90. *Dracula trinympharum* Luer