

Dracula venefica Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

A speciebus ceteris generis **Draculae** Luer pedunculo paucifloro suberecto foliis grandibus brevioribus, flore mediocri sepalis atropurpureo guttatis intus breviter pubescentibus longicaudatisque, labello salmoneo parvo epichilio orbiculari denticulato hypochilio multimajore cum base non-flexibili distinguitur.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems channeled, unifoliate, 2.5 - 5 cm long, enclosed by 2 - 3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, carinate dorsally, narrowly obovate, 18 - 28 cm long, 2.3 - 3 cm wide, the apex acute, tridenticulate, gradually narrowed below into the conduplicate base. Inflorescence a successively 2 - to 3-flowered raceme borne by a slender, erect or suberect, dark purple, several-bracted peduncle 10 - 11 cm long, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral 10 mm long; pedicel 10 - 15 mm long; ovary deep purple, subverrucose, 6 mm long; sepals wide-spread, densely spotted and suffused with purple - black on white, shortly pubescent within, the hairs purple or white, the dorsal sepal ovate, 16 mm long, 16 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 5 mm to form a more or less flat flower, the rounded apex contracted into a dark maroon, filiform tail ca. 5 cm long, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 20 mm long, 15 mm wide, connate 12 mm to form a broad, shallow mentum the subacute apices contracted into tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; petals ivory, marked with purple-brown, oblong, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the rounded apex bivalvate, verrucose, between the laminae; lip salmon-colored, spatulate, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide, the hypochile oblong, 2.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, with erect, obtuse, marginal angles, cleft centrally, the concave base adherent (not flexibly hinged) to the column-foot, the epichile suborbicular with toothed, involute margins, the concavity trilamellate; column yellow-white, semiterete, 4 mm long with a thick foot equally long.

HERBARIO

Jardín Botánico "JOAQUIN ANTONIO URIBE"

MEDELLIN, ANT., COLOMBIA



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FLORA DE COLOMBIA
ANTIOQUIA ORCHIDACEAE

Dracula venefica Luer & Escobar

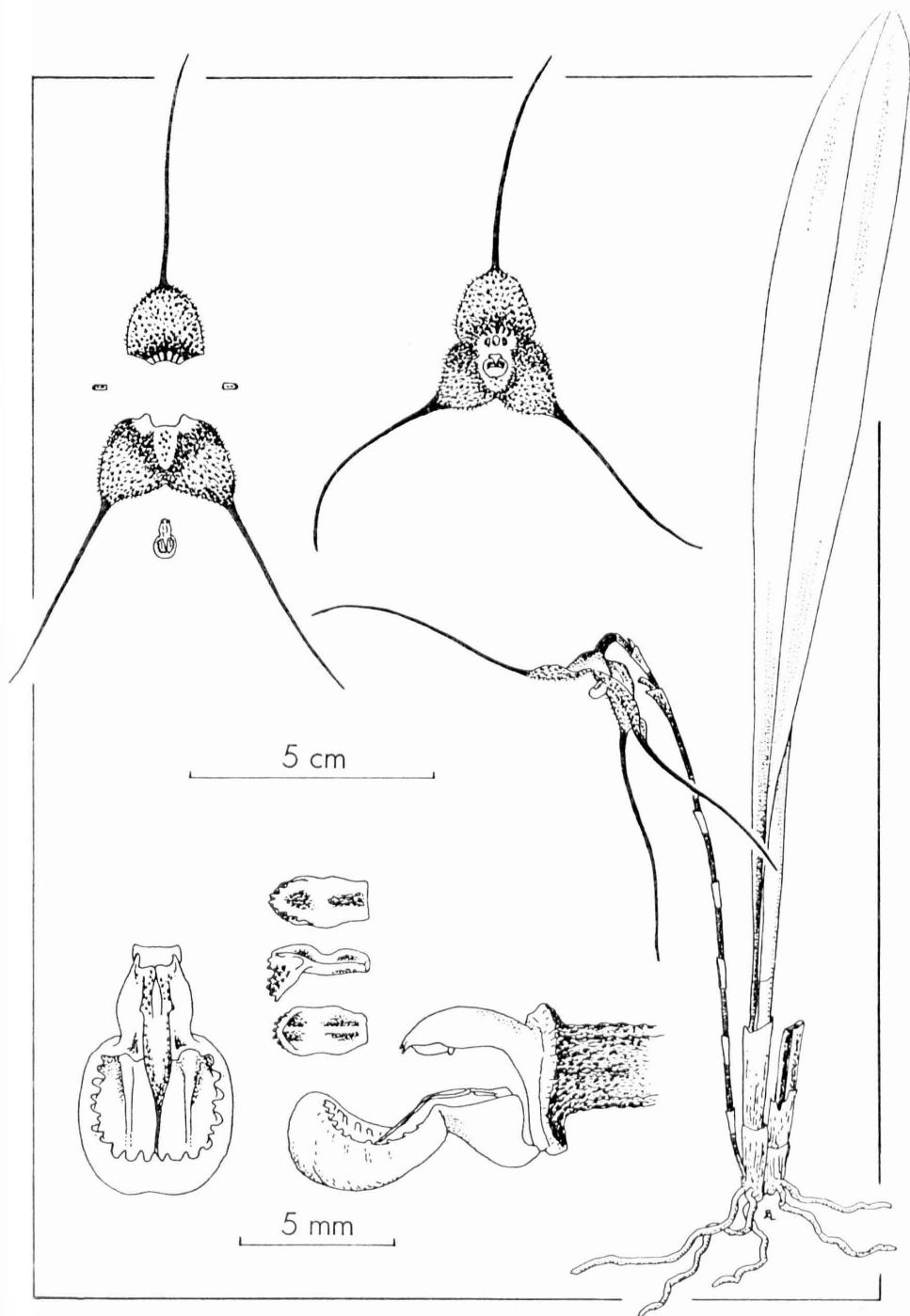
Municipio de Dabeiba, recolector desconocido, flo-
res 1977, cult. por L. & J. Posada en El Retiro.

Sépalos blancos densamente manchados de rojo-ne-
groso, caudas marrón oscuro, pétalos marfil pin-
tados de rojo-café, labelo salmón.

Colector: R. Escobar

No. 1903 Fecha. floreció en cult. 14 Enero 1979

HERBARIO JARDIN BOTANICO JOAQUIN ANTONIO URIBE



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ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín **venefica**, "una bruja" en alusión a las peludas flores de sobresaliente lengua.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin **venefica** "a witch," in allusion to the hairy flowers with a protruding tongue.

TIPE: **COLOMBIA;** **ANTIOQUIA:** Munic. of Dabeiba, late 1.977, collector unknown, cultivated by L. & J. Posada at Colomborquídeas El Retiro, R. Escobar '1903 (**HOLOTYPE:** JAUM; **HISOTYPE:** SEL), flowered in cult. 14 Jan. 1979, C. Luer illustr. 3661.

DISTRIBUTION: Colombia Western Cordillera.

Las flores de **Dracula venefica** se marchitan rápidamente cuando se exponen al aire caliente y seco pero se recuperan prontamente cuando se devuelven a un ambiente frío y húmedo. Aun cuando la base del labelo aparece idéntica a la de la mayoría de las especies de **Dracula** con labelos flexibles, el labelo de **D. venefica** no es flexible. Sobresale rigidamente de la flor, estado que solo se encuentra en otras pocas especies (e. g. **D. bellerophon** Luer & Escobar y **D. chimaera** (R.chb.f) Luer).

The flowers of **Dracula venefica** wilt quickly when they are exposed to warm, dry air, and recover promptly when returned to a cool, moist environment. Although the base of the lip appears identical to that of the majority of the species of **Dracula** with flexibly attached lips, the lip of **D. venefica** is not flexible. It stands stiffly out from the flower, a condition found in only a few other species (e.g. **D bellerophon** Luer & Escobar and **D.chimaera** (R chb.f.) Luer).