

Masdevallia amoena Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *amoenus*, "delightful, lovely," referring to qualities of the species.

Inter species subject. *Oscillantes*, habitu mediocri, flore grandi, sepalis niveis intus minute purpureo papillois obtusis longicaudatis, petalorum callo alato ad basim digitiformi, et labello bialato distinguuntur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls blackish, slender, 1-1.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, long-petiolate, 5-8 cm long including the 2-3 cm long, blackish petiole, the blade elliptical, acute, 1.5-2.3 cm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a solitary flower borne by an ascending to horizontal, slender peduncle 4-6 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract 8 mm long; pedicel 15 mm long; ovary 5 mm long; sepals white, yellow basally, glabrous externally, distantly purple cellular-papillose within, the dorsal sepal obovate, 16 mm long, 13 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 10 mm to form a gaping cup, the apex rounded, abruptly contracted into an erect, slender, yellow-green tail 4 cm long, the lateral sepals connate 15 mm into a broadly expanded, transversely obovate lamina 20 mm long, 25 mm wide, the broadly obtuse apices abruptly contracted into slender, descending, yellow-green tails 4 cm long; petals yellow, oblong, 5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the apex subtruncate, obscurely bilobed, with a wing-like, longitudinal callus along the lower margin ending in a descending, cylindrical, 1 mm long process at the base; lip tan, diffusely dotted with brown, black at the apex, more or less oblong, 5.25 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, the margins thin and obtusely dilated near the middle, with the edges, minutely erose, narrowed below the acutely decurved tip, the disc broadly and shallowly concave between a pair of low, longitudinal calli, the base thickened, subcordate, flexibly hinged beneath by a thin strap; column yellow, semiterete, 5 mm long, the foot with extension 3 mm long.

ECUADOR: Without collection data, purchased from José Portilla, collector, flowered in cultivation by Ton Sijm at Venhuizen, The Netherlands, 14 Aug. 1999, *T. Sijm 15898* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19227; without collection data, purchased from José Portilla, flowered in cultivation at Hasselt, Belgium, by P. Cloes s.n. (MO).

Unfortunately, this attractive species is without collection data. Among the members of subsection *Oscillantes*, it is distinguished by acute, petiolate leaves, and a suberect to horizontal, colorful flower that is large for the subsection. The sepals are white, and yellow at the base. Within, the sepals are diffusely studded with lavender, papillose cells. The obtuse apices are produced into slender, yellow-green tails. The petals are yellow, oblong and longitudinally winged with a finger-like callus at the base. The margins of the lip are thin and dilated into obtuse wings. The tip is black and recurved.

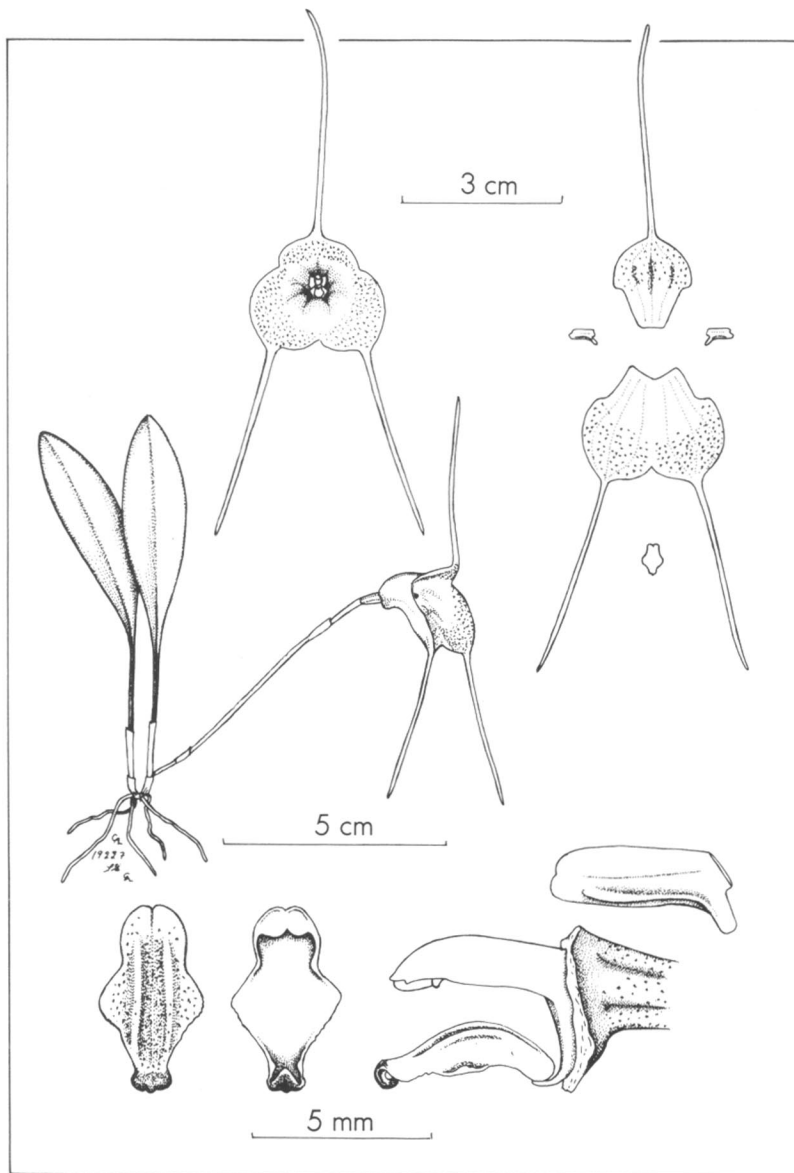


Fig. 1a. *Masdevallia amoena*