

Masdevallia amplexa Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *amplexus*, "clasping," referring to the petals.

Species haec *M. carruthersianae* F. Lehm. & Kraenzl. similis, sed synsepalo concavo marginibus erectis, petalis columnam amplectentibus, et labello alato apice convexo obtuso differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, 9 cm long including an indistinct petiole ca. 1 cm long, the blade narrowly elliptical-oblong, subacute to obtuse, 1.5 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the base. **Inflorescence** a successively flowered, congested raceme, borne by an erect, slender, triquetrous peduncle to 17 cm long, with a bract above the base, from the base of a ramicaul; floral bracts imbricating, 15-17 mm long; pedicel 15 mm long; ovary 6 mm long; **sepals** rigidly fleshy, glabrous, the dorsal sepal yellow, suffused with rose, ovate, 10 mm long, 7 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 5 mm to form a short, sepaline tube, the apex acute, contracted into an erect, slender, orange tail 2.5-3 cm long, the laterals deep red-purple, connate 15 mm into a concave lamina 20 mm long, 20 mm wide expanded, with a small but deep secondary mentum at the base, 6-veined with the veins thickened, the apices obtuse, approximate, contracted into yellow tails 13 mm long; **petals** white with purple dots at the apex, oblong, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex broad, irregularly truncate with the upper margin thin and embracing the column, the labellar half with longitudinal thickening ending in a rounded callus at the base; **lip** rose, dotted diffusely with purple, oblong-subpandurate, arcuate, 5 mm long, 2 mm

wide, thinly winged near the middle, the apex convex, minutely verrucose, with the acute tip decurved, the base descending, truncate, hinged from the end to a short, incurved extension of the column-foot; column white, suffused with rose, semiterete, 5 mm long, the foot 4 mm long, spotted, with an incurved extension.

PERU: Dept. of Huánuco: near Tingo Maria, obtained from M. Arias, cultivated by J & L Orchids, 1297-548, *C. Luer 18670* (Holotype: MO).

Superficially resembling *M. carruthersiana*, this species is distinguished from others in subsection *Alaticaulis* by the concave synsepal with the veins thickened within and relatively short recurving tails. Most distinguishing are the petals that clasp the column with dilated margins above the middle. The lip differs with the usual marginal folds becoming winglike extensions of the margin above the middle.

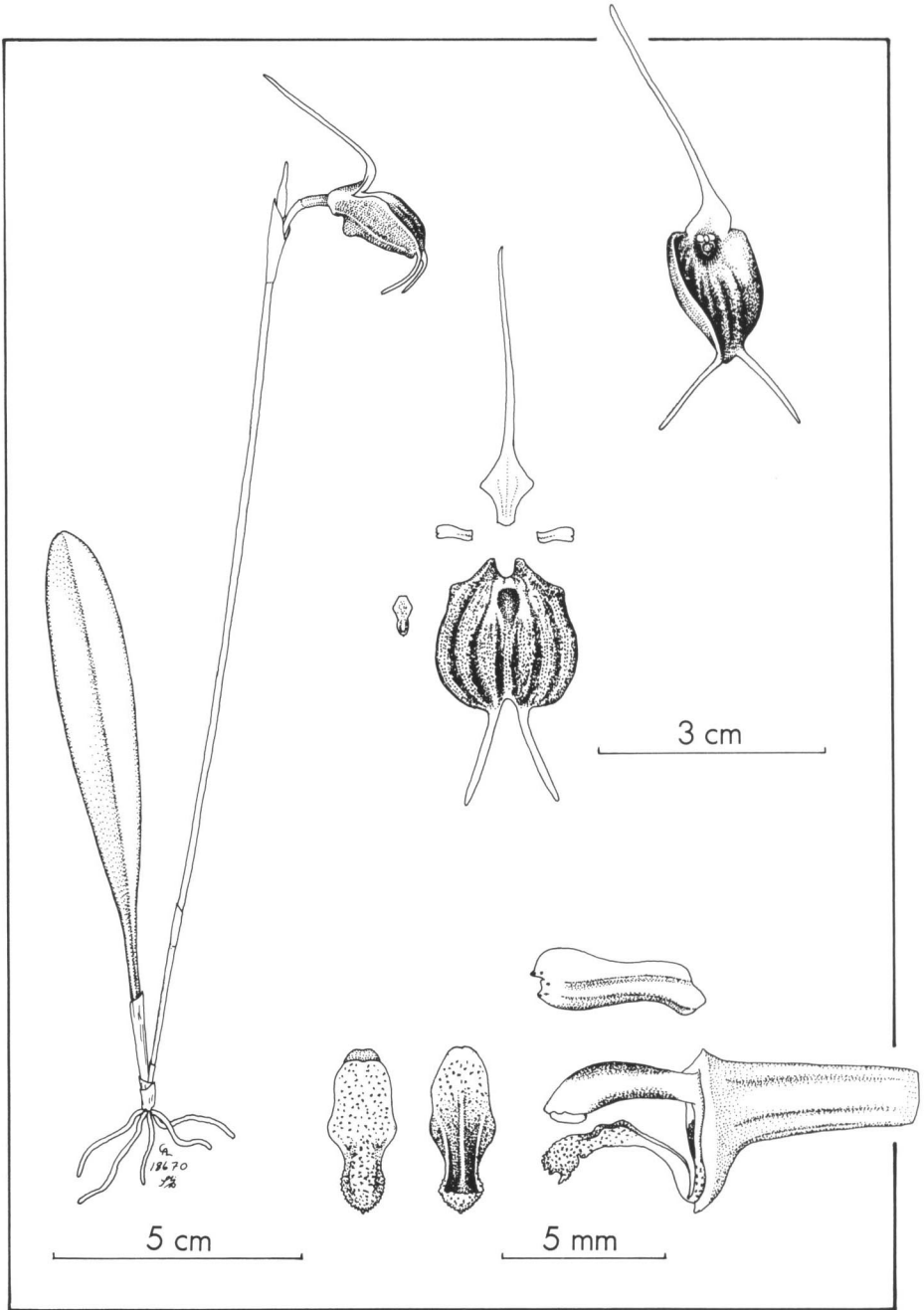


Plate 29. *Masdevallia amplexa* Luer