

**Masdevallia calocalix** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *kalokalyx*, "a pretty cup," in reference to the sepaline cup.

Species haec *M. laevis* Lindl. affinis, sepalorum cupula late mentosa, et labello bicalloso supra medium angustato ad apicem unicalloso differt.

**Plant** small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, ca. 1 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, petiolate, 7 cm long including a petiole 1.5-2 cm long, the blade elliptical, subacute, 1.3 cm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower borne by an erect, slender peduncle 7 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract 7-10 mm long; pedicel 7-10 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** light brownish purple, glabrous to cellular-glandular, the dorsal sepal elliptical, obtuse to rounded at the apex, anteflexed, 12 mm long, 9 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 6 mm to form a cup, the apex abruptly contracted into a slender, purple tail 26 mm long, the lateral sepals elliptical, oblique, 12 mm long, 9 mm wide, connate 6 mm into a broad mentum, the apices obtuse, contracted into slender, descending tails 23 mm long; **petals** white, suboblong-triangular, 4.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex narrowed, minutely dentate, with a longitudinal wing-like callus along the lower margin ending in a thick triangular, incurved process above and beyond the base; **lip** marked with purple, oblong-subpandurate, narrowed above the middle, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, the disc sulcate centrally between a pair of longitudinal calli, the apex rounded, with a short callus ending at the margin, the base truncate, flexibly hinged to a slender extension from the tip of the column-foot; **column** semiterete, 4.5 mm long, with a thick foot 1 mm long plus an equally long extension.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: below Chigüinda, alt. 1400 m, cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, Dec. 2001, A. Hirtz 7840 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20073.

This species, apparently endemic in Ecuador, is superficially similar to the variations seen in *M. laevis*. It is characterized by small, elliptical leaves, and an equally long, erect peduncle. The light brownish purple sepals are connate about half their length into a bell-shaped, sepaline cup with the petals and lip visible and standing erect on the back wall above a broadly rounded mentum. The thick basal process of the petals extends beyond the base. For four-fifths its length, the lip is channeled between a longitudinal pair of calli that terminate at a narrowing of the distal fifth.



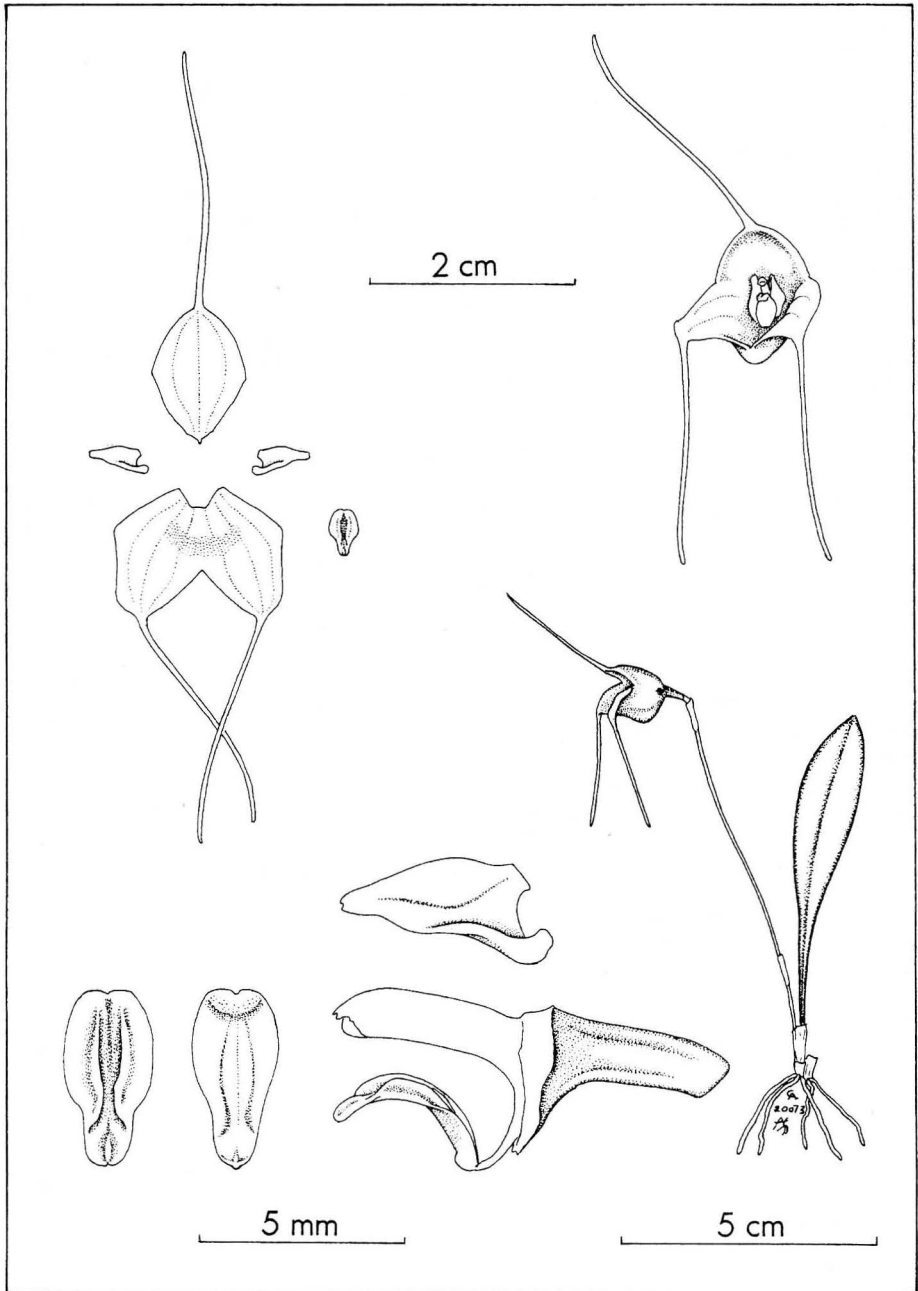


Plate 538. *Masdevallia calocalix*