

Masdevallia dorisiae Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Doris Dukes of Dover, FL, who submitted the plant for identification.

Inter species subsect. *Alaticaulis*, habitu mediocri, flore grandi, sepalis flavis roseo suffusis, glabris, acutis attenuatis caudatis, sepali dorsalis cauda decurva, synsepalo ad ostium cupulae decurvo sensim caudato, petalis oblongis, et labello plicato distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls blackish, slender, 1.5-2 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, petiolate, 10-14 cm long including a petiole 2-3 cm long, the blade elliptical, subacute, 1.5-1.8 cm wide, the base narrowly cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a subdense, successively few-flowered raceme borne by an erect, slender, triquetrous peduncle 14 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract 15 mm long; pedicel 15 mm long; ovary 5-6 mm long; sepals yellow, suffused with rose medially, glabrous externally, cellular within, the dorsal sepal elliptical, acute, long-attenuate, decurved, 52 mm long, 10 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 12 mm to form a cylindrical tube, the lateral sepals connate 27 mm into an ovate, bifid lamina,

decurved at the opening of the tube, 35 mm long, 15 mm wide, with acute apices attenuate into slender, descending, white tails 15 mm long; petals white, oblong, 7 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex obliquely subtruncate, obscurely lobed, with a longitudinal callus on the lower half ending in an obtuse angle above the base; lip white below the middle, black above the middle, oblong, with oblique marginal folds at the middle, 6 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex minutely verrucose, apiculate and denticulate, convex beneath, the base thickened, subtruncate, hinged beneath; column white, semiterete, 5 mm long, the foot 3 mm long with an extension.

ECUADOR: Without collection data, purchased by Doris Dukes from a vendor at the orchid show in Quito, Ecuador, Feb. 1994, flowered in cultivation in Dover, FL, Sept. 1995, *D. Dukes s.n.* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17750.

This attractive species was purchased by Doris Dukes at a Quito orchid show in 1994, and cultivated in Florida. Unfortunately collection data are unknown. Among the members of subsection *Alaticaulis*, this species is distinguished by synsepal that decurves abruptly at the orifice of the cylindrical, sepaline tube. The acute apices are attenuated into relatively short tails. The long-attenuate dorsal sepal decurves. The petals are oblong, and the oblong lip is white below the middle and black above the middle with an obtuse, minutely verrucose apex.

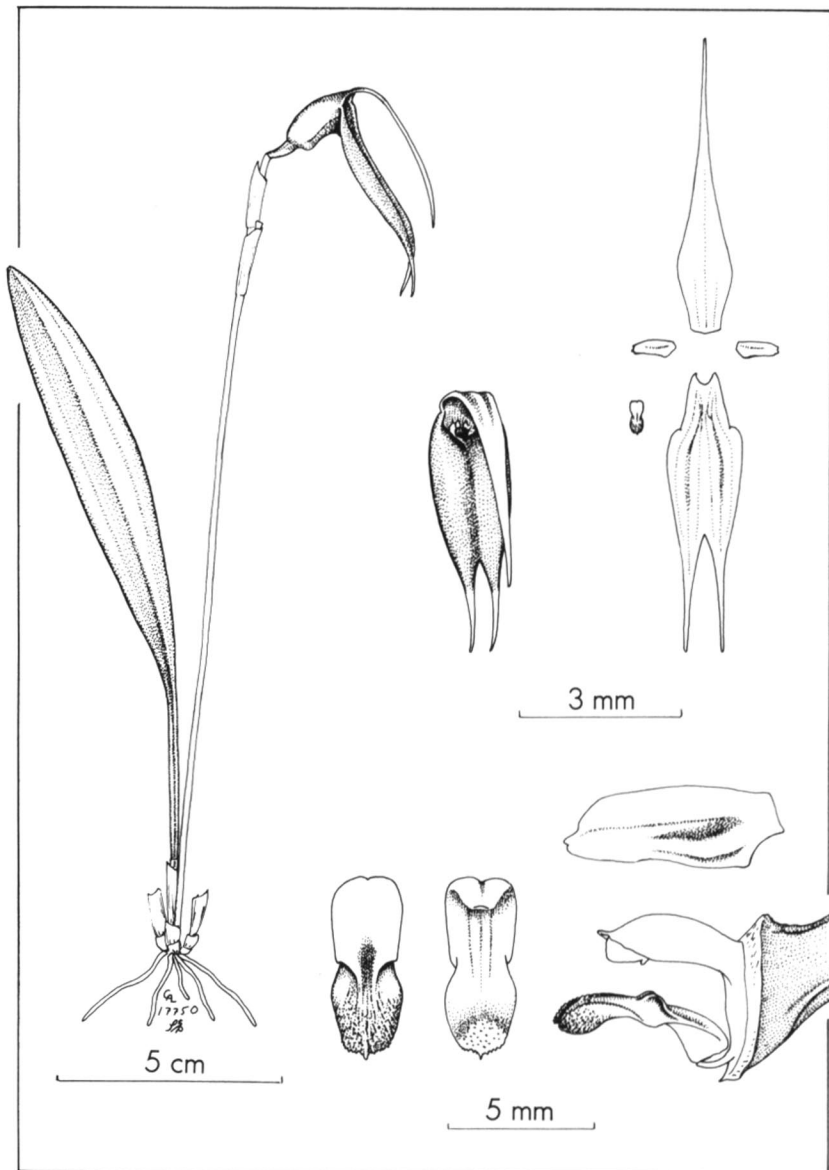


Fig. 4a. *Masdevallia dorisiae*