

Masdevallia ejiriana Luer & Portilla, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Munekazu Ejiri, of Chiba, Japan.

Inter species subsect. *Oscillantes*, habitu mediocri, sepalis albis longissime caudatis, petalorum callo marginali supra basim minute dentato, et labello fimbriato alato distinguitur.

Plant medium in size for the subsection, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender; ramicauls blackish, slender, erect, 0.5-1 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, black, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, petiolate, 3.5-4 cm long including the petiole 1-1.5 cm long, the blade broadly elliptical, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 1.2-1.6 cm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a solitary flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 3 cm long, with a bract at the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract tubular, 10 mm long; pedicel 11 mm long; ovary 6 mm long; sepals white, glabrous externally, microscopically pubescent within, the dorsal sepal suborbicular, concave, 9 mm long, 7.5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 4 mm to form a broad cup, the apex rounded, abruptly contracted into a slender, white, reflexed tail 5 mm long, the lateral sepals broadly elliptical-oblong, 12 mm long, 9 mm wide, connate 6 mm, the apices oblique, rounded, abruptly contracted into tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; petals white, oblong, 6 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex broadly bilobed, the lower margin with a longitudinal callus ending in a small, descending process above the base; lip heavily suffused with red-purple, trilobed, 6.5 mm long, 4.6 mm wide expanded, the margins thin and expanded into triangular lobes on the middle third, with the edges fimbriate, the apical third coarsely erose, the tip decurved with a large midline callus, the disc sulcate on the middle third between calli from the thick, distal third, subcordate, hinged beneath; column white, semiterete, 5.5 mm long, the foot 2 mm long with an in-curved extension.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: Pangui, alt. 1500 m, collected 20 Apr. 1996 by J. Portilla, cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, Ecuador, Oct. 1999, *J. Portilla 19* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19244.

This species of subsect. *Oscillantes* is superficially similar to *M. andreottana* Luer. The flowers of both species are white with broadly expanded lateral sepals. The petals are also similar with a small, descending tooth above the base. The lip of *M. ejiriana* is distinguished by the prominent, fringed wing-like lobes on the middle third.

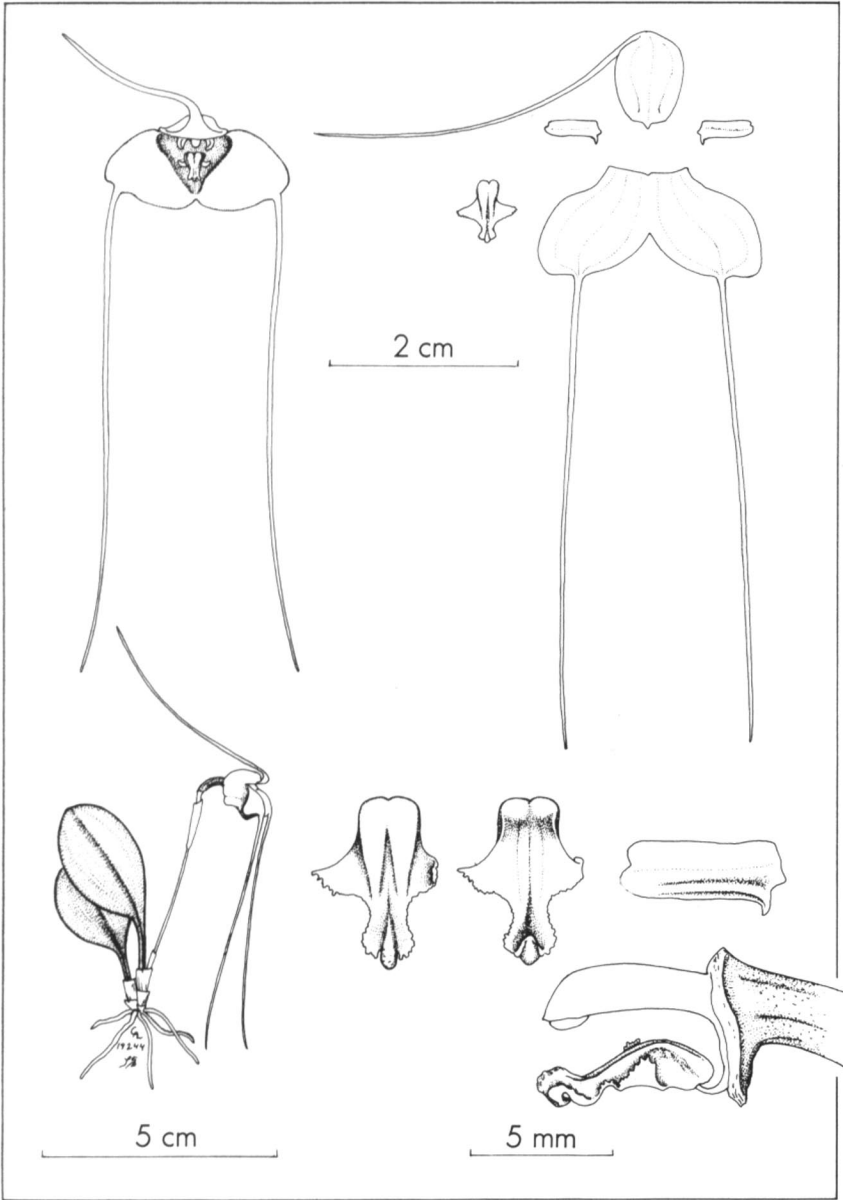


Fig. 5a. *Masdevallia ejiriana*