

Masdevallia hortensis Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Species haec *M. segurae* Luer & Escobar affinis, sed sepalis glabris, caudis longioribus. apice sepali dorsalis cum callo protruso distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Secondary stems slender, 1-1.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, petiolate, 6-8.5 cm long including the 2-3 cm long petiole, 0.9-1.3 cm wide, the lamina narrowly obovate-elliptical, subacute, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a congested, successively flowered raceme borne by a slender, erect peduncle 6-9 cm long, with a bract on the lower third, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract 8-10 mm long; pedicel 10 mm long; ovary 3 mm long, winged; dorsal sepal white, the lower half suffused with yellow, diffusely spotted with red-purple, more or less oblong, 11 mm long, 6 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm to form a gaping, sepaline cup, with a protruding callus at the apex below the base of the tail, the rounded apex abruptly contracted into an acutely reflexed purple tail up to 2.5 cm long, the lateral sepals glabrous, white, suffused with

¹Research Associate of the Missouri Botanical Garden; 3222 Old Oak Drive, Sarasota, Florida 33579.

²Curator of Orchids, Herbarium of Jardín Botánico Joaquín Antonio Uribe, Medellín, Colombia.

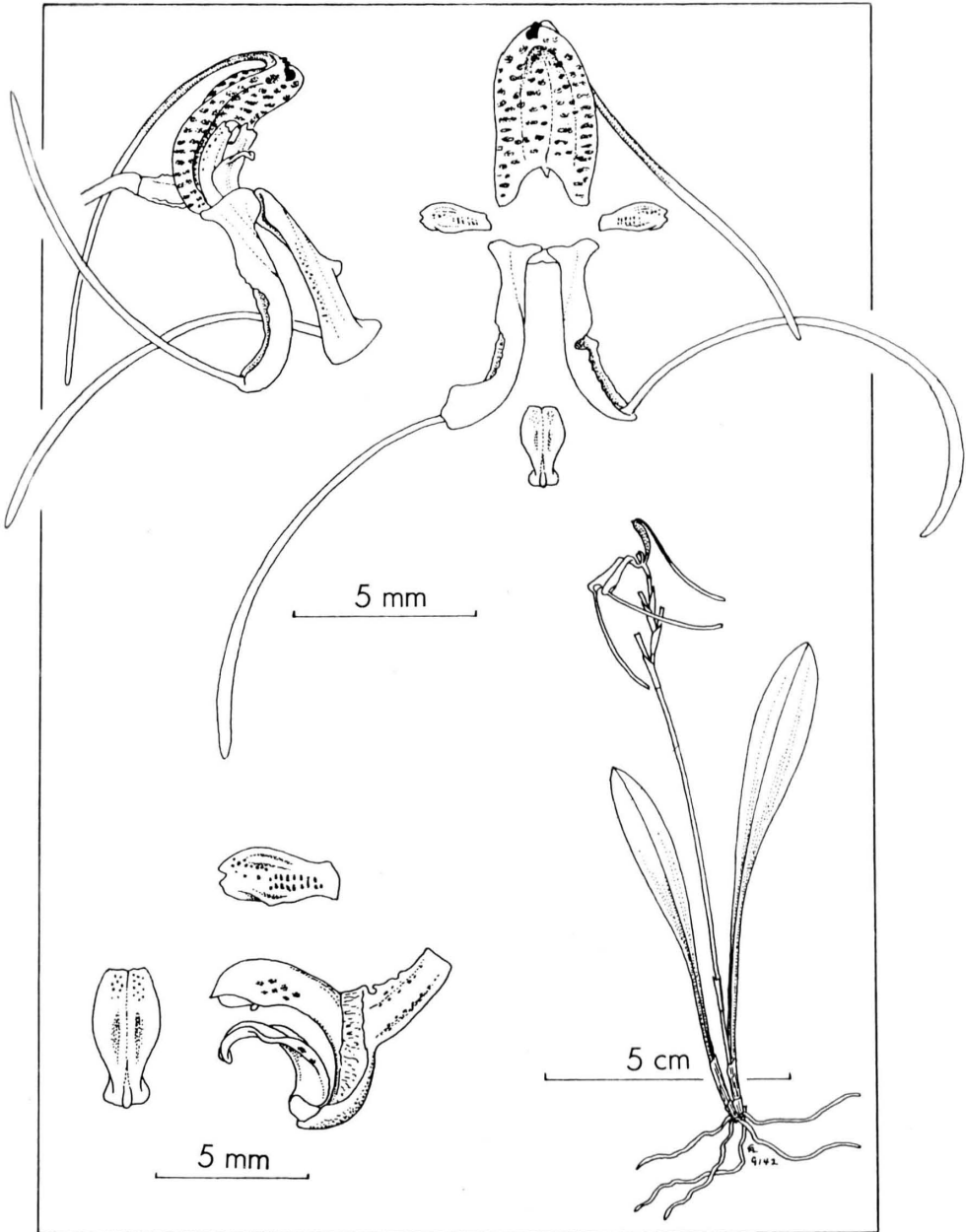


Illustration: Carlyle A. Luer

Masdevallia hortensis



Photography: Rodrigo Escobar

Masdevallia hortensis

orange-brown at the base, with a longitudinal area of purple dots near the middle, oblong with revolute sides, 12 mm long, 3.5 mm wide expanded, 1.5 mm wide unexpanded connate 1 mm, the obtuse apices contracted into reflexed, yellow tails up to 2.5 cm long; petals yellow, dotted with purple-black, elliptical-oblong, 4 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the apex unevenly bi- or tridentate, the lower margin with a longitudinal carina, the upper half with a low, longitudinal callus; lip erect in the natural position, yellow, suffused with brown, with purple dots above the base, ovate, 4.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, narrowed below the recurved, expanded, apical portion, obtuse to rounded with a low midline callus, the truncate base thickened below, with a thin attachment to the bulbous base of the column-foot; column yellow, marked with purple, stout, semiterete, 4 mm long, the foot equally long with a thick, incurved extension.

ETYMOLOGY: From the latin *hortensis*, "pertaining to the garden," in reference to the locality near the town of Jardín, where the species was discovered.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *hortensis*, "relacionado con el jardín", en referencia a la localidad cerca de la población de Jardín, donde fue descubierta.

TYPE: COLOMBIA: ANTIOQUIA: Munic. of Jardín: La Cifuentes, alt. 2.600 m, 26 May 1983, R. Escobar, L. & J. Posada et al. 2707 (Holotype: SEL; Isotypes: COL, JAUM). C. Luer illustr. 9142.

Distribution; Colombia, Western Cordillera.

This species was recently discovered by Rodrigo Escobar in a remote area apparently not previously visited by collectors. *Masdevallia hortensis* is closely related to the rare *M. segurae* Luer & Escobar, but the most distinguishing feature is the protruding knoblike callus at the apex of the dorsal sepal below the base of the tail. A protruding callus is found in the same place in *M. hieroglyphica* Rchb. f., in *Dracula levii* Luer and in *D. dalstromii* Luer.

Esta especie fue recientemente descubierta por Rodrigo Escobar en un área remota aparentemente no visitada previamente por colectores. *Masdevallia hortensis* está cercamente relacionada con la rara *M. segurae*, Luer & Escobar, pero la característica más distintiva es el callo protuberante en forma de perilla en el ápice del sépalo dorsal debajo de la base de la cauda. Un callo protuberante se encuentra en el mismo lugar en *M. hieroglyphica* Rchb. f., en *Dracula levii* Luer y en *D. dalstromii* Luer.