

Masdevallia idae Luer & Arias, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named in honor of Sra. Ida Fernandez, first president of the Club Peruano de Orquídeas.

Species haec *M. amabilis* Rchb.f. & Warsz. affinis, sed folio longipetiolato, flore aurantiaco, petalorum callis ad basim crassissimis incurvatis, et labello oblongo quam petalis columnaue minore differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls black, erect, slender, 5-7 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, 9-11 cm long including the petiole ca. 4 cm long, the blade narrowly elliptical, subacute, 1.5-1.8 cm wide, the base narrowly cuneate into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower borne by a slender peduncle 13-16 cm long, with a bract near the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract thin, tubular, 1.5 cm long; pedicel 3-4 cm long; ovary 4-7 mm long; **sepals** orange, microscopically pubescent within, the dorsal sepal obovate, shallowly concave, ca. 20 mm long, 12 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 7-10 mm to form a sepaline tube, the apex obtuse, acuminate into a slender, red-orange tail ca. 20 mm long, the lateral sepals connate 18 mm into a broad, bifid synsepal, ca. 30 mm long, 25 mm wide, with a mentum below the column-foot, the apices acute, acuminate into tails 6-8 mm long; **petals** white, oblong, slightly curved, 6 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex rounded, the labellar margin with a longitudinal carina ending in a thick, blunt, recurved, retrorse process at the base; **lip** white, oblong, 4.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex rounded, recurved, suffused with purple, the disc featureless, the base truncate, hinged beneath; **column** white, semiterete, 5.5 mm long, slightly uneven at the apex, the foot thick, 2 mm long with the extension.

PERU: **Ayacucho**: Huanta, Pachamanca, epiphytic, alt. 2200 m, collected by Silvano Flores, cultivated in Lima, Sept. 1999, by *M. Arias s.n.* (MO), C. Luer illustr. 19362.

Instead of lithophytic or terrestrial as with most other Peruvian members of the subsection *Coccineae*, this species is epiphytic. Although this subsection has not yet been treated, this species is included here because it is in the trade.

Vegetatively, the plant is distinguished by long-petiolate leaves that are surpassed by the slender peduncle. Similar to *M. amabilis*, the lateral sepals are connate into a blade beyond the narrow, sepaline tube. The orange color of the flower is similar to that of many of the color variations of *M. amabilis*. The apices of the lateral sepals are acute and tapered into short tails. The marginal callus of the petals terminates with a thick, retrorse, uncinate process. The oblong lip is smaller than the petals and column.



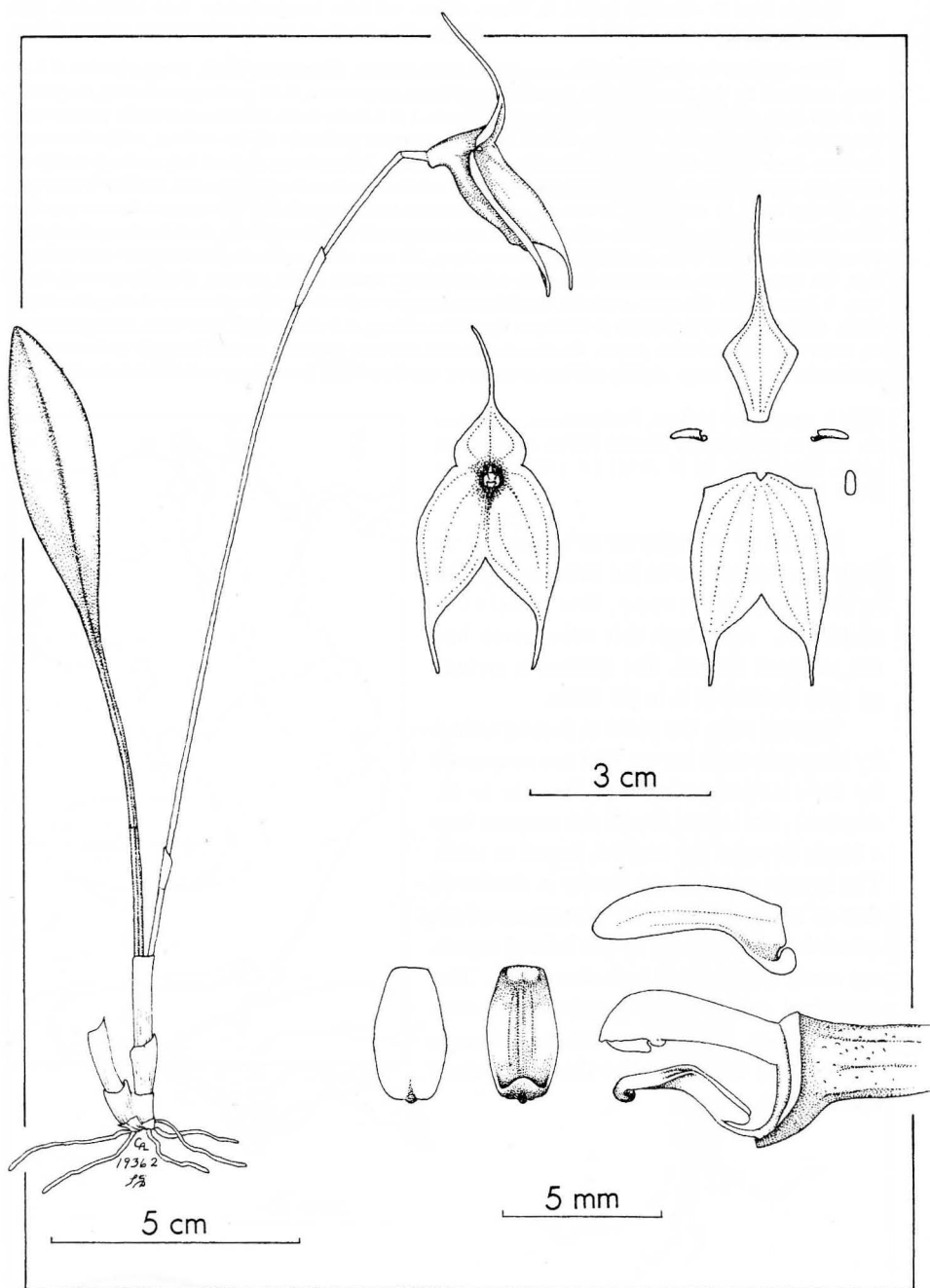


Plate A1. *Masdevallia idae*