

**Masdevallia lappifera** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

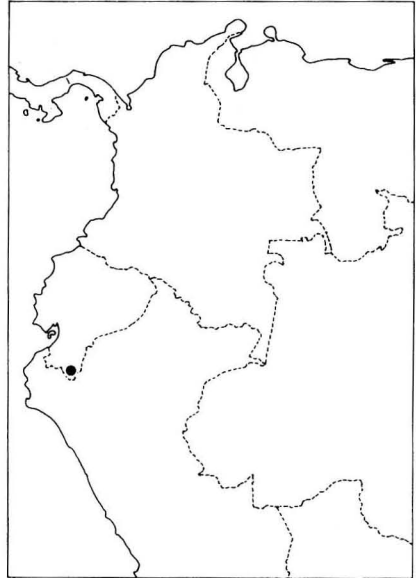
Ety.: From the Latin *lappifer*, "bur-bearing," referring to the markedly prickly apex of the lip.

Species haec *M. hystrici* Luer affinis, sed habitu minore cum pedunculo brevior, sepalis petalisque albis, sepalorum caudis brevioribus, petalis late obovato differt.

**Plant** medium in size, presumably epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 3.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** thickly coriaceous, erect, 8 cm long including an indistinct petiole 1 cm long, narrowly oblong, obtuse, the blade 1.5 cm wide dry, probably 2 cm wide fresh, cuneate below into the subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower borne by a stout peduncle less than 1 cm long, with a basal bract, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract tubular, 1 cm long; pedicel 2 cm long; ovary 5-6 mm long, 5 mm wide; **sepals** light yellow with purple spots, rigidly fleshy, the dorsal sepal ovate, the blade 21 mm long, 9 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 9 mm to form a broad, cylindrical tube, the free portion triangular, obtuse, contracted into a slender, white tail 14 mm long, the lateral sepals with a few, small, purple spots within, coalescing at the base, subovate, oblique, ca. 38 mm long, 17 mm wide, connate 7 mm, forming a deep mentum with the column-foot, the acute apices contracted into thick, white tails ca. 1.5 cm long; **petals** white with a broad, purple midvein and apex, cartilaginous, elliptical-obovate, obtuse, both margins obtusely angled near the middle, 11 mm long, 5.75 mm wide; **lip** white, dotted with purple, especially at the apex, thickly cartilaginous, oblong-elliptical, 15 mm long, 8 mm wide, the margins erose above the middle, fimbriate at the apex, the apical fifth markedly spiculate, obtuse, the disc subverrucose, shallowly concave between a pair of low calli, the base truncate, hinged near the end; **column** white with purple margins, semiterete, 11 mm long, the foot equally long with a short, incurved extension.

ECUADOR: **Zamora-Chinchipe**: above Zumba, alt. 1200 m, cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, 10 Nov. 2001, A. Hirtz 7835 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr 20076.

This species of section *Coriaceae* is apparently endemic in southernmost Ecuador. The bristly apex of the lip is very similar to that of *M. hystrix*. Vegetatively, *M. lappifera* is considerably smaller with a very short peduncle less than one centimeter long. The sepals are white and connate into a rigidly fleshy, broad cylindrical tube with tails about equally long. The petals are short and broad and obtusely angled on both margins. When extended, the large lip overhangs the short distance that the lateral sepals are connate. The tip of the lip is densely covered by spicules.



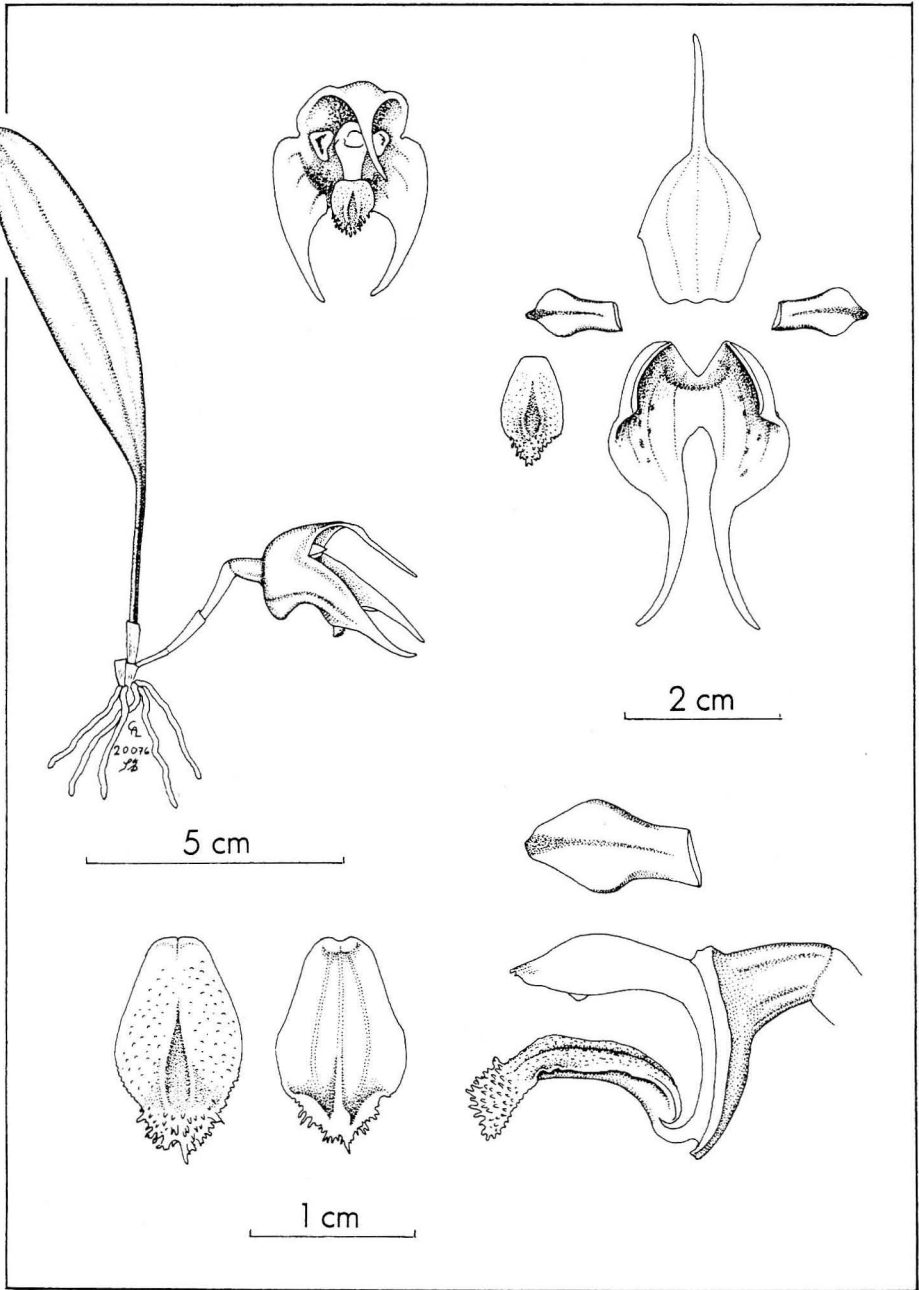


Plate 534. *Masdevallia lappifera*