

**Masdevallia mallii** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Malli Rau of Wilmington, Delaware, who cultivates this species.

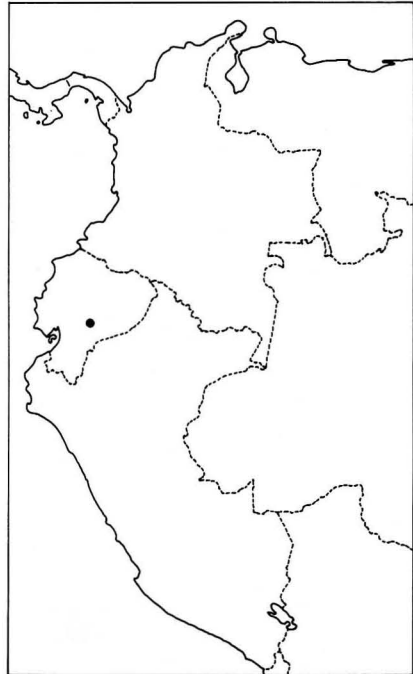
Inter species subgeneris *Polyanthes* Luer, planta grandis, pedunculo triquetro foliis crassissimis subpetiolatis plus minusve aequilongo, sepalo dorsali con lateralibus in sepalum tubum infundibularem connato, lateralibus lunaribus liberis, petalis oblongis, labello valde recurvato distinguitur.

**Plant** medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fleshy. Ramicauls stout, erect, 0.7-1.5 cm long, with fugacious, tubular sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, 8-14 cm long including an indistinct petiole barely 1 cm long, the blade elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 2-3 cm wide, cuneate below into the base. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower borne successively in a congested raceme up to 3 cm long, by a stout peduncle 12 cm long, with a tubular sheath at the base, from the base of the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, imbricating, 15 mm long; pedicel 20-22 mm long; ovary 5-6 mm long; **sepals** white with the lateral sepals suffused with purple mostly on the inner halves, glabrous externally, cellular-pubescent within, the dorsal sepal obovate, 28 mm long, 11 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 14 mm into an infundibular sepaline tube, the apex acute, contracted into a forwardly directed, light yellow tail ca. 30 mm long, the lateral sepals crescent-shaped with revolute sides, 27 mm long, 11 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, free to the base, with the apices acute, contracted into slender, light yellow tails 12 mm long; **petals** white, cartilaginous, oblong, retuse at the broadly obtuse apex, with both halves callous, 6.75 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** white, suboblong, strongly arcuate, with marginal folds below the middle, 3.5 mm long unexpanded, 5.5 mm long expanded (fractured), 2.5 mm wide, the epichile acutely recurved, obtuse, apiculate, minutely verrucose with minutely verrucose, longitudinal calli, the hypochile ovate, convex centrally, the base rounded, thickened beneath, hinged to the column-foot; **column** semiterete, white, 4 mm long, the foot 3 mm long with an incurved extension, the anther and stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: without data, collected with *M. draconis* Luer & Andreetta by José Portillo and cultivated in Wilmington, DE, flowered 15 Aug. 2000, by *M. Rao 31* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19395.

This species is apparently endemic in southeastern Ecuador where it was collected out of flower with plants of *M. draconis*. As an unidentified specimen it flowered in the collection of Malli Rao in Wilmington, DE.

Vegetatively, the species is remarkable for the thickly rigid, obtuse, elliptical leaf that contracts below into a stout, subpetiolate base. The triquetrous peduncle bears a congested, successively flowered, long-pedicellate raceme. The more or less conical flowers are relatively large and white with purple suffusion on the inner-half of the lateral sepals. The tail of the dorsal sepal points forward. Although connate to the dorsal sepal for more the half its length, the crescent-shaped lateral sepals are free from each other to the base beneath the column-foot. The petals are oblong. The epichile of the lip is acutely reflexed above marginal folds.



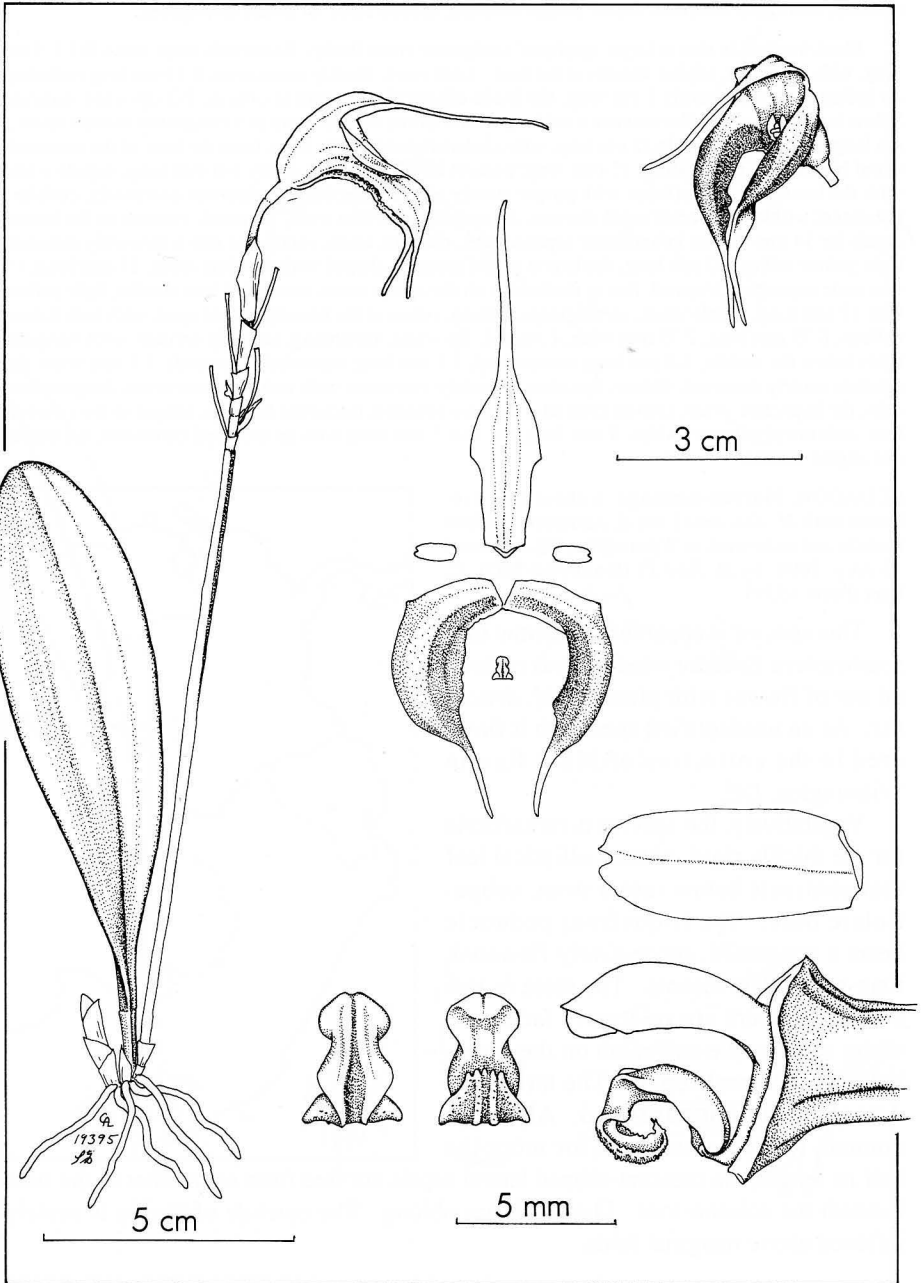


Plate 259. *Masdevallia mallii*