

Masdevallia martiniana Luer, sp. nov.

Plate 34.

Ety.: Named in honor of Martin del Hierro, co-collector of this species.

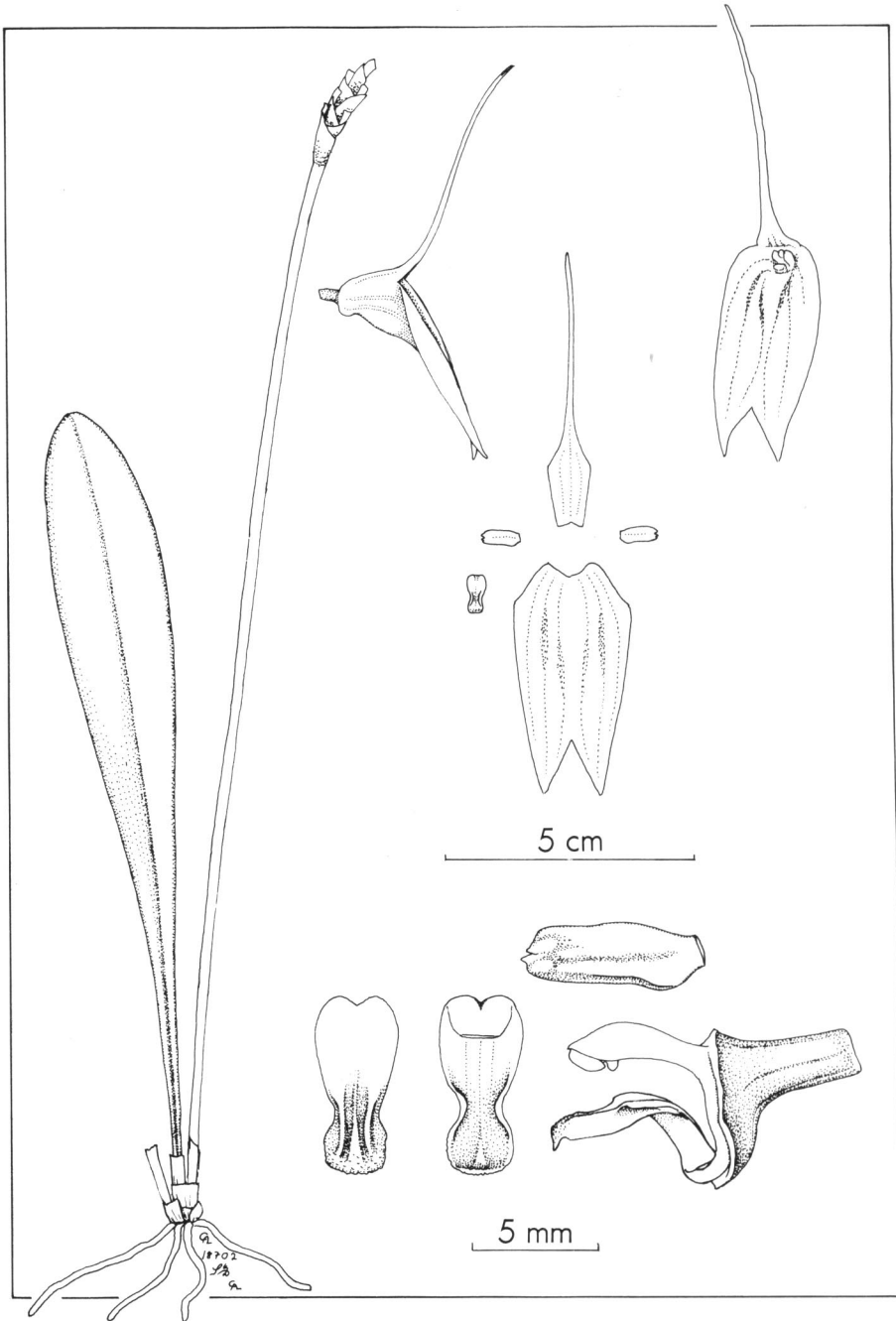
Inter species *Masdevalliae* subsect. *Alaticaulium* sepalis dorsali longicaudato, sepalis lateralibus profunde connatis in synsepalum oblongum bifurcatum cum apicibus triangularibus acutis non-caudatis et labello subpandurato apice convexo rotundo distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, caespitose; roots fleshy. Ramicauls stout, erect, 1.5-2.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, obtuse, 10-15 cm long, 2-2.5 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a very congested raceme of successive flowers, borne by an erect triquetrous peduncle 20-25 cm long, with a bract near the base of a ramicaul; floral bracts imbricating, 10 mm long; pedicel 10 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; **sepals** light green, glabrous, the dorsal sepal obovate, 18-20 mm long, 9 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 12 mm to form a campanulate, sepaline tube, the apex subacute, acuminate into a slender, erect, green tail ca. 35 mm long, the lateral sepals light green suffused with pale rose centrally and along veins centrally, connate 33 mm into an oblong, bifid synsepal, 35-45 mm long, 20-23 mm wide, with the apices triangular, acute; **petals** green, cartilaginous, oblong, 7 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex obscurely tridentate, with a low, longitudinal callus within the labellar margin, ending in an low, rounded callus above the base; **lip** dull white, covered with minute purple dots, oblong-subpandurate, 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, with the margins incurved above the middle, the disc with a pair of folds within the margin above the middle, the apex rounded, convex, minutely verrucose, the base thick, subcordate, hinged beneath to the column-foot; **column** semiterete, 5 mm long, the foot equally long including a thick, incurved extension.

ECUADOR: **Sucumbíos**: Lago Imuya, epiphytic in a tree overhanging the water, alt. 230 m, Aug. 1995, collected by Martin and Juan del Hierro, cultivated by Juan del Hierro in Quito, 15 Feb. 1998, *C. Luer 18702* (Holotype: MO). **Napo**: Aguarico, Reserva Etnica Huaorani, near Río Yasuní, alt. 230 m, 19 Mar. 1994, *Milton Aulestia 1887* (MO, QCNE); Parqué Nacional Yasuní, lagunas de Garza Cocha, alt. 200 m, 22 Sept. 1988, *C.E. Cerón & N. Gallo 4940* (MO, QCNE).

This species occurs in the hot, lowlands of Amazonian Ecuador, usually found growing on limbs of trees overhanging water. Among the species of section *Masdevallia* subsection *Alaticaulis*, this species is distinguished by the light green flowers with a pale rose suffusion on the deeply connate synsepal. The apices are triangular and acute, noncaudate. The petals are oblong. The lip is subpandurate with a pair of folds just within the margins at the constriction above the middle. The apex is rounded, convex and minutely verrucose.

Masdevallia martiniana is superficially similar to *M. vargasii*, also found in the lowlands of Ecuador to Bolivia and Brazil, but not at the very low altitude of less than 300 meters above sea level. The latter is distinguished by short, sepaline tails and a proportionately larger, non-pandurate lip.

Plate 34. *Masdevallia martiniana* Luer