

Masdevallia plynophora Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *plynophorus*, "bearing a washtub," referring to the basin-like synsepal.

Species haec *M. trochili* Linden & André affinis, sed sepalis lateralibus non incurvis et bracteis floralibus, petalis labelloque longioribus differt.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 4-4.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, 10-25 cm long including the petiole 2-6 cm long, the blade elliptical, obtuse, 2.2-3 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the stout, channeled petiole. **Inflorescence** a subcongested, successively flowered raceme up to 10 cm long, borne by a suberect, stout, triquetrous peduncle 20-40 cm long, up to 0.5 cm broad, with a bract at the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts foliaceous, imbricating, 2.2-4.5 cm long; pedicel 4-4.5 cm long; ovary 5 mm long; **dorsal sepal** yellow, obovate, ca. 22 mm long, 8 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 9 mm to form a cylindrical sepaline tube, the free portion ovate, acute, contracted into a slender, erect tail ca. 8 cm long; **lateral sepals** yellow, mottled with red-brown, connate 25 mm to form a synsepal 35 mm long, 25 mm wide unexpanded, concave above the middle, 15 mm deep, with the sides more or less erect, not incurved, the veins prominent within and verrucose toward the apices, the apices subacute, approximate, contracted into slender tails 5 cm long; **petals** white, oblong, 9 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex narrowly tridentate, the labellar half longitudinally callous-thickened; **lip** white, diffusely dotted with purple, oblong-pandurate, 8.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, with prominent, obtuse, lobe-like, marginal folds near the middle, the epichile elliptical with the apex minutely verrucose, subacute, apiculate, the hypochile narrowly oblong, the base subcordate, hinged on the end; **column** white, semiterete, 7 mm long, the foot stout, 3 mm long, with a short, incurved extension.

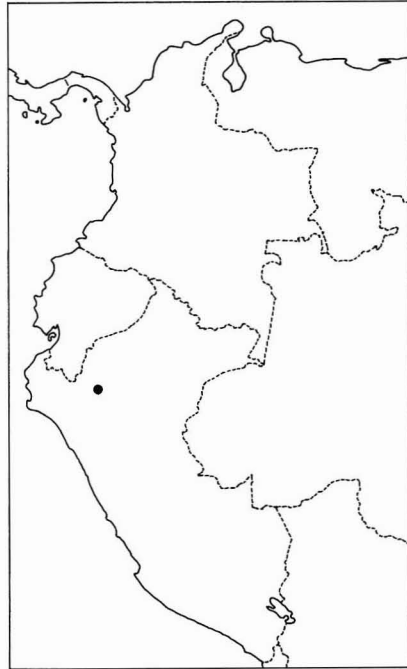
PERU: Amazonas: La Providencia, alt. 2300 m, collected by J. Meza, cultivated by B. Würstle at Spielberg, Germany, 1 Sept. 1984, *C. Luer 10432* (Holotype: MO). Without collection data, purchased from J. Meza, cultivated by A. Maduro at Finca Dracula, Cerro Punta, Chiriquí, Panama, 14 Nov. 1998, *C. Luer 18981* (MO).

Masdevallia plynophora is very closely allied to the relatively frequent and widely distributed *M. trochilus*, and could possibly be treated as a variation. Vegetatively, they are indistinguishable, except for the longer average lengths of the floral bracts and pedicels.

The differences in the appearance of the flowers are remarkable. Instead of the lateral sepals incurved into a closed, egg-shaped synsepal, the synsepal is gaping and bowl-shaped, probably enticing pollinators other than hummingbirds. An illustration of this species was identified as *M. acrochordonia* in part-one of this series. When the true *M. acrochordonia* was

recognized in the area of its first collection, it was obvious that this present species was not the same.

Masdevallia plynophora is apparently restricted to Amazonian Peru, where it probably grows with *M. trochilus*. It was first recognized in a collection obtained from Jorge Meza and cultivated by Berthold Würstle in 1984. A second collection was seen among plants of typical *M. trochilus*, also obtained from Meza, and cultivated by Andres Maduro in 1998.



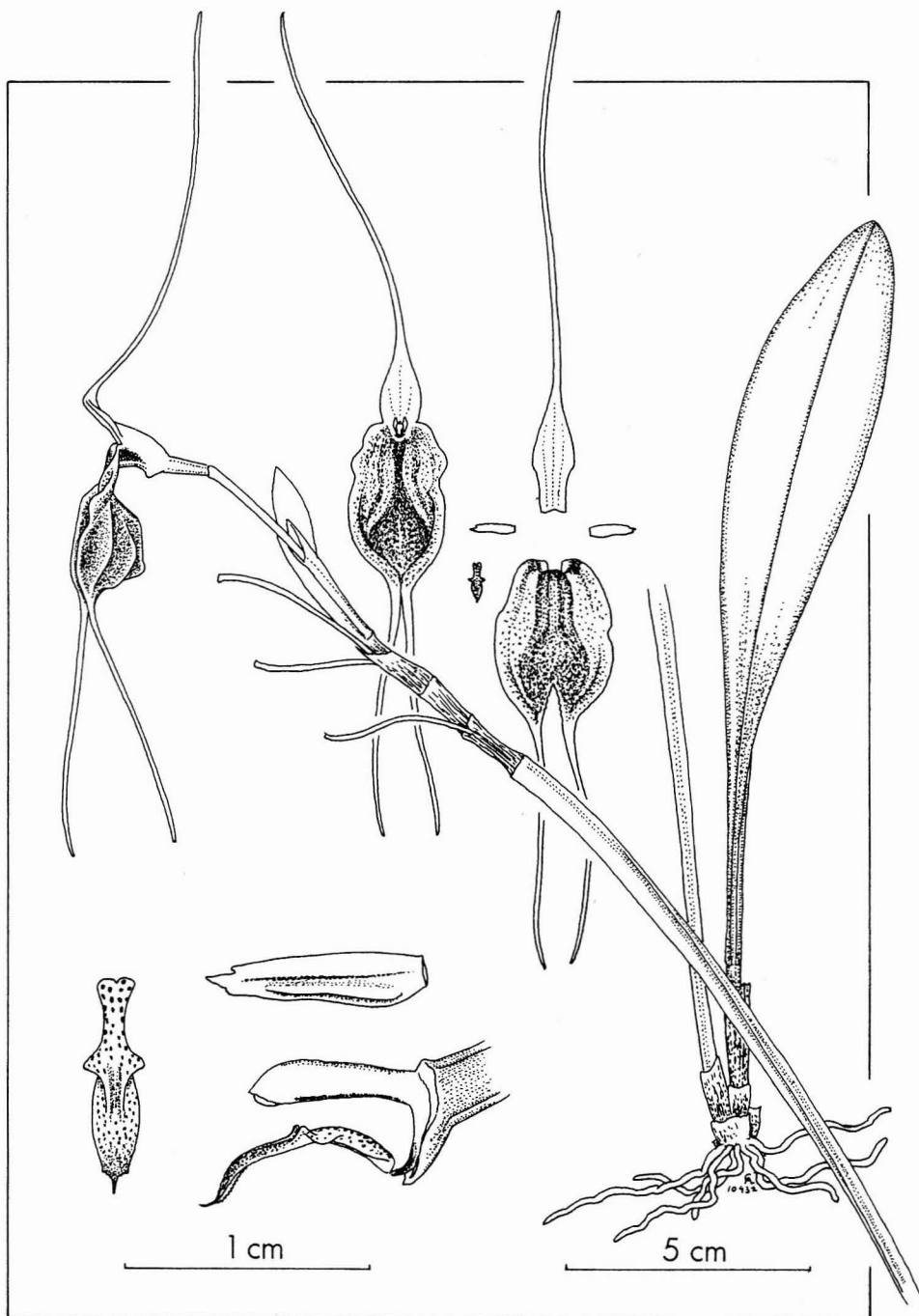


Plate 651. *Masdevallia plynophora*