

**Masdevallia rana-aurea** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *rana aurea*, "golden frog," as called by Andrés Maduro.

Species haec *M. os-viperæ* Luer & Andreetta affinis, sed foliis anguste ovatis acutis, sepalis petalis labelloque aurantiacis vividis, sepalorum intus glaberrimis differt.

Plant medium in size, presumably epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, blackish, 1-1.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, 5-9 cm long including the blackish petiole 2-2.5 cm long, the blade elliptical, acute, 1.8-2 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a single flower with all parts orange, borne by a slender, suberect peduncle, 4-5 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract tubular 8 mm long; pedicel 8 mm long; ovary 6 mm long; sepals glabrous, the dorsal sepal oblong-ovate, 19 mm long, 9 mm wide, obtuse, contracted into a slender, forwardly directed tail 2.5-3 cm long, connate to the lateral sepals for 15 mm into a slightly compressed, infundibular tube, the lateral sepals connate 20 mm into a widely expanded, bifid lamina, 30 mm long, 24 mm wide, the apices acute, contracted into slender tails ca. 1.5 cm long; petals cartilaginous, oblong, obtuse-subtruncate, 8 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, with a longitudinal callus along the labelar margin, terminating above the base in an acute process; lip oblong, 7 mm long, 2 mm wide, with the margins minutely undulate, the apex obtuse with a small, midline callus, the disc with a smooth, callus below the middle, forked into a pair of parallel calli above the middle, shallowly concave between, the base subcordate, hinged beneath; column semiterete, 6 mm long, the foot 3 mm long with a slender, free extension.

PERU: Without collection data, obtained from J. Meza T., cultivated by Maduro's Tropical Flowers, Cerro Punta, Panamá, 16 November 1998, *C. Luer 18976* (Holotype: MO).

This species, reportedly obtained from J. Meza in Peru, is similar to *M. osviperae* Luer & Andreetta from southeastern Ecuador. The leaves of *M. rana-aurea* are elliptical, not narrowly ovate and acute. The color of all the floral parts of *M. rana-aurea* is pure orange, the same color seen in *M. hirtzii* Luer & Andreetta. The sepals are connate into a slightly compressed, narrowly cylindrical tube with the free portions broadly expanded, but totally glabrous as in *M. hirtzii*. The petals, lip and column are similar to those of *M. osviperae*.

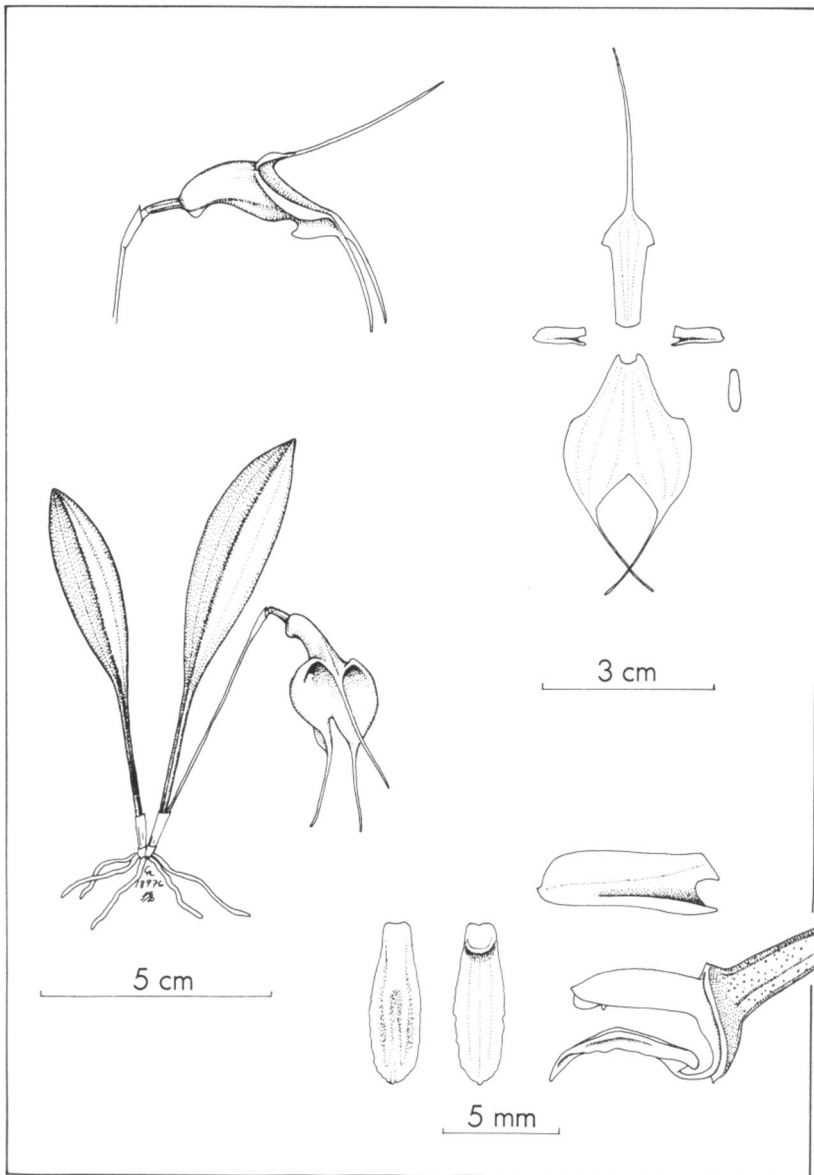


Fig. 8a. *Masdevallia rana-aurea*