

**Masdevallia regina** Luer, sp. nov.

Plate 36.

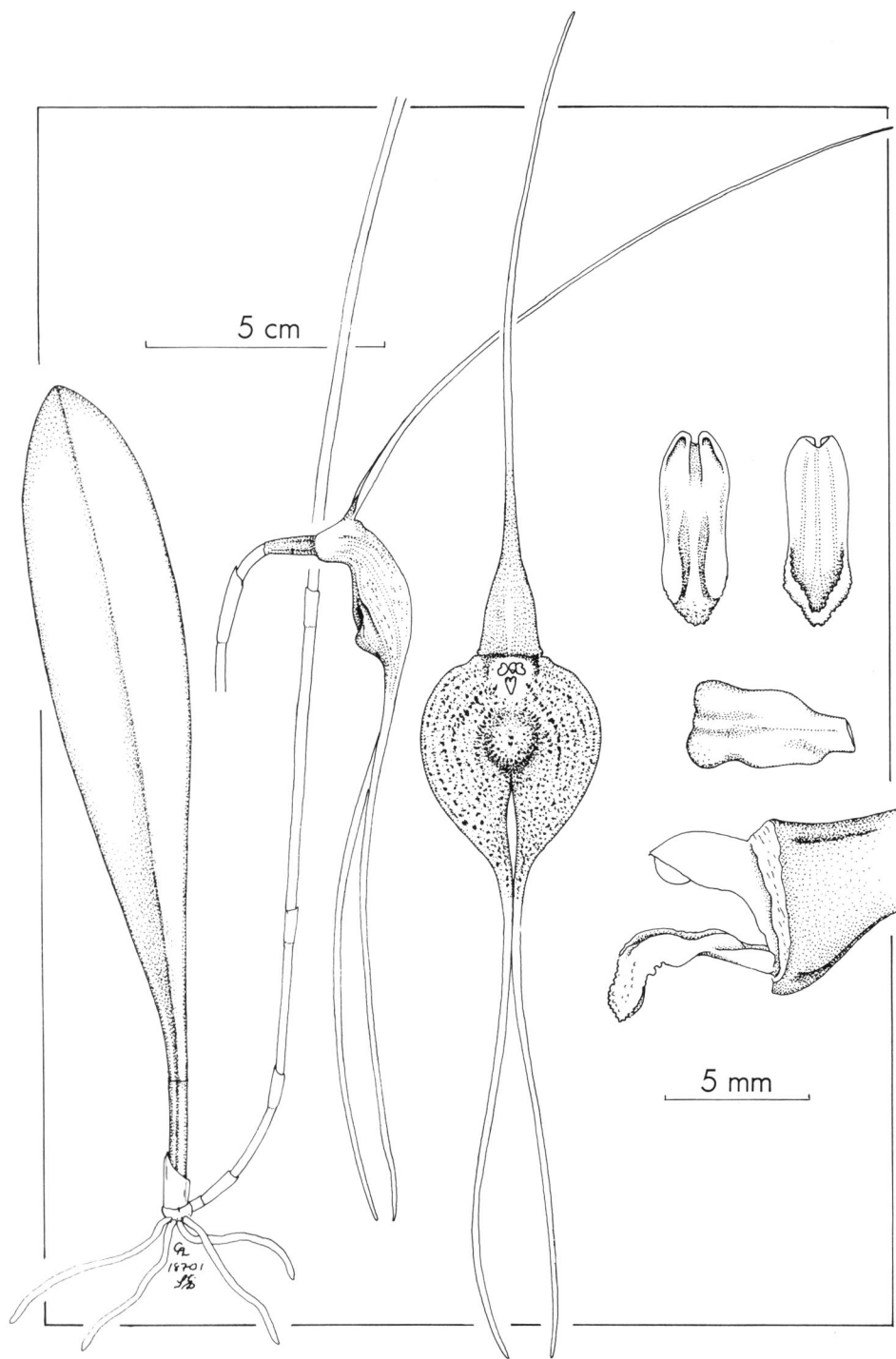
Ety.: From the Latin *regina*, "queen," alluding to the smaller flower similar to that of *M. princeps*.

Species haec *M. principis* Luer persimilis, sed flore leviter minore, sepalis lateralibus acutis cum caudis non reflexis, synsepalo ad centrum abrupte convexo et labello apice noninflexo differt.

**Plant** medium in size to large, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 2-3 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly obovate, obtuse, 15-20 cm long, 3-3.5 cm wide, gradually cuneate below into the base. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively few-flowered raceme borne by a terete, ascending peduncle up to 30 cm long, with 3-4 close bracts below the middle, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract thin, tubular, 15 mm long; pedicel thick, 20 mm long; ovary 10-12 mm long, 4 mm thick; **sepals** rigidly fleshy, glabrous externally, minutely glandular-pubescent within, the blade of the dorsal sepal narrowly triangular-ovate, ca. 20 mm long, 14 mm wide at the base, the acute apex attenuated into a slender, erect, green tail 10-11 cm long, connate to the lateral sepals for 9 mm to form a short, campanulate tube, the lateral sepals yellow-orange with dark purple flecks, as rows of bars toward the center surrounding a central, rounded convexity ca. 1 cm wide, connate across the convexity for 20 mm into a broadly ovate synsepal, ca. 40 mm long, 38 mm broad, the apices acute, approximate, shortly attenuated into slender, non-retroflexed tails 10-11 cm long; **petals** cartilaginous, ivory, dotted with purple, minutely subverrucose, oblong, shortly unguiculate, 6 mm long, 3 mm wide, the apex truncate, obscurely trilobed, both halves callous, shallowly sulcate centrally; lip orange, dotted with red-purple, thick, oblong, 7 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, with the apex obtuse, verrucose, nondeflexed, the disc shallowly sulcate on either side of a central callus above the middle, the base subcordate, concave to either side of the channel, hinged on the end; **column** greenish white, stout, semiterete, 4 mm long, the foot thick with a very short, incurved extension.

PERU: **San Martin**: near Tarapoto, obtained from M. Arias, ca. 1997, cultivated by A. Hirtz in Quito, Ecuador, 15 Feb. 1998, *C. Luer 18701* (Holotype: MO).

This species is very closely allied to *M. princeps*, with which it is reported to have been collected. It is readily distinguished from the latter by the acute apices of the lateral sepals with long, approximate tails that are not reflexed. In the center of the synsepal a well-circumscribed, round convexity is present. Whether or not this convexity is peculiar only to this clone is not possible to say at the present time. The lip is narrower with the apex obtuse without a deflexed callus.

Plate 36. *Masdevallia regina* Luer