

Masdevallia smallmaniana Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Don Smallman of Halpringham, Norfolk, England, who cultivates this species in the British National Collection of *Masdevallia*.

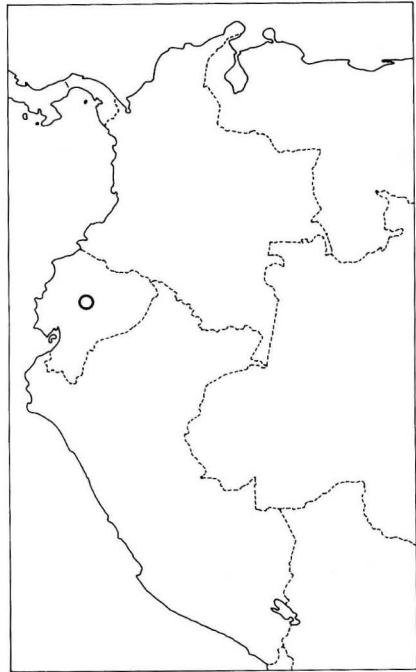
Planta mediocris, pedunculo foliis subaequilongo unifloro, sepalorum caudis quam laminis leviter brevioribus, petalis longiacuminatis et labello oblongo supra medium anguste lineari protuberanti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1-1.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, close, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, obtuse, 7-8 cm long including an indistinct petiole ca. 1 cm long, 1-1.5 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into an indistinct petiole ca. 1 cm long. **Inflorescence** a single flower, borne by an erect peduncle, 5-6 cm long, with a bract near the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract tubular, 13 mm long; pedicel 10 mm long; ovary 6-7 mm long; **sepals** olive green, lightly suffused with brown, glabrous, the dorsal sepal oblong, 32 mm long including the attenuated apex, 8 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 9 mm into a cylindrical tube, the free portion triangular, acute, attenuate into an erect, slender tail ca. 12 mm long, the lateral sepals oblong, oblique, acute, 30 mm long, connate 6 mm, 14 mm wide together expanded, the free portions narrowly triangular, acute, with slender, decurved tails ca. 10 mm long; **petals** greenish, red-brown above the middle, obovate below the middle, contracted into a subulate apex, 17 mm long, 5 mm wide, with a small, oblong, obscure callus above the lower margin; **lip** greenish, red-brown above the middle, protruding, 18 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, oblong below the middle, contracted above the middle into narrowly linear-subulate apex, the disc shallowly concave with a midline callus extending forward onto the apex, the base subcordate, concave beneath, broadly hinged on the end; **column** green, semiterete, 8 mm long, the apex tridentate, the foot thick, 3 mm long with the in-curved extension broad, continuous with the hinge of the lip.

ECUADOR: without locality, alt. 2000-2500 m, obtained from New World Orchids by the British National Collection of *Masdevallia*, flowered in cultivation at Royden Orchids in Grand Missenden, England, Feb. 2002, by *R. Barrow RO11* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20081.

This unique species is apparently endemic in Ecuador, known from only one collection and without known locality. Vegetatively not remarkable, it is characterized by a single, olive-green flower held about as high as the leaves. The sepals are connate into a cylindrical tube with the acute free portions contracted into tails slightly shorter than the blades. Most remarkable are the red-brown, subulate tips of the petals and lip that protrude from the tube, reminiscent of *M. audax*.

The subgenus to which this species should be assigned is not obvious, but it seems more similar to the non-conforming species of subgenus *Pygmaea* than to any of the other subgenera.



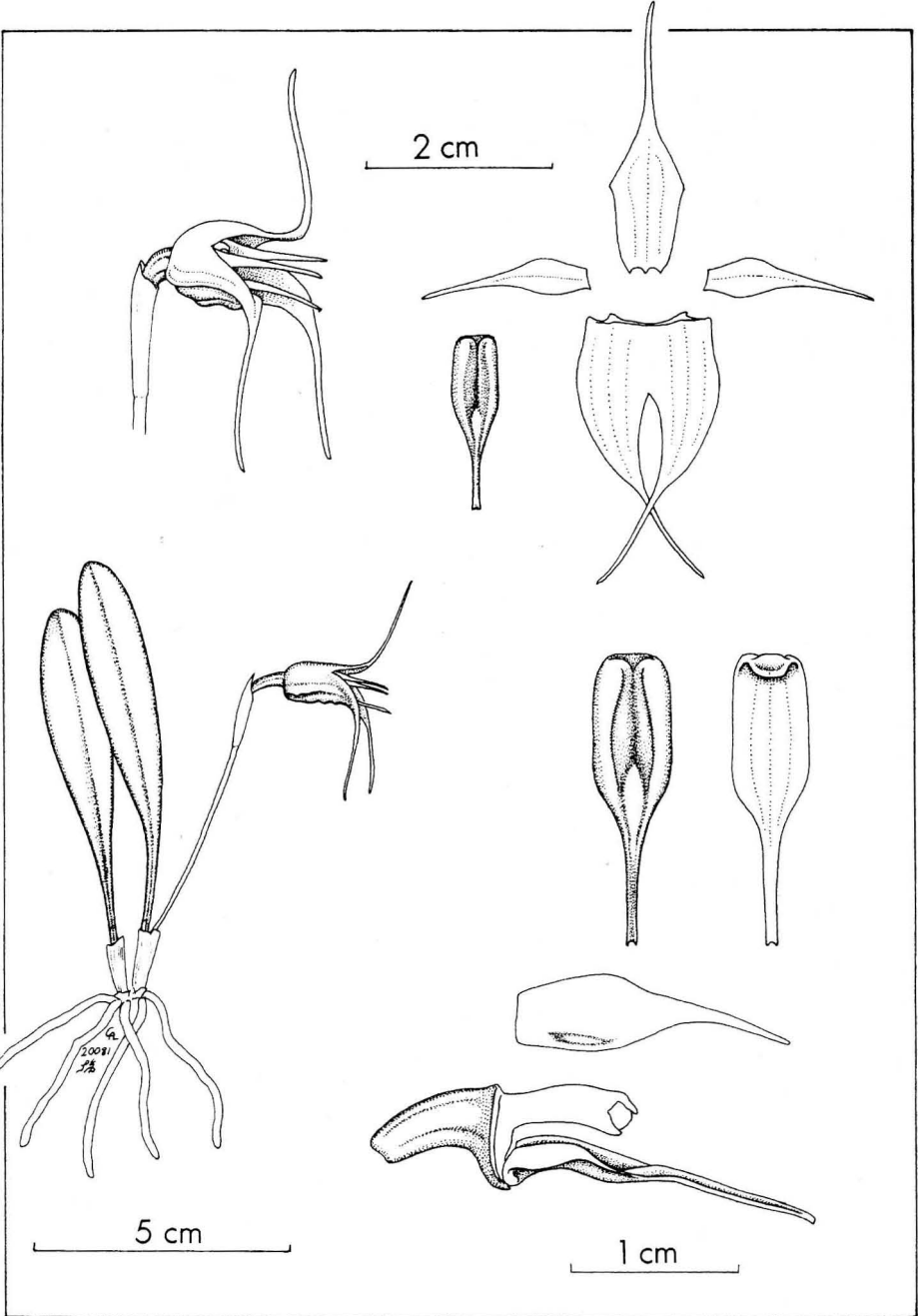


Plate 536. *Masdevallia smallmaniana*