

**Masdevallia veleva** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *veleva*, "a small curtain," referring to a smaller, descending synsepal, the "curtain," than that of *M. velifera*.

Species haec *M. veliferae* Rchb.f. affinis, sed habitu floreque minoribus, sepalis flavis et labello infra apicem constricto differt.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls stout, erect, 2.5-3 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, dark green, 10-12 cm long including the petiole ca. 1 cm long, the blade narrowly elliptical-oblong, subacute to obtuse, 1.7-2 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a large, solitary flower, borne by an erect, stout peduncle 3-4 cm long, with a bract near the base, from near the base of the ramicaul; floral bract tubular, 2 cm long; pedicel stout, 2.5 cm long; ovary thick, 1 cm long; **sepals** fleshy, yellow, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, 52 mm long including the tail, 15 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 14 mm to form a broad, cylindrical tube, the free portion triangular, acute and acuminate into a slender, forwardly directed tail ca. 2 cm long, the lateral sepals connate 28 mm into a rectangular, decurved, bifid lamina 30 mm long, 16 mm wide, the base forming a broad, deep mentum beneath the column-foot, the free portions short, acute, contracted into slender ca. 20 mm long; **petals** yellow-green, thickly cartilagenous, oblong, obtuse, 12 mm long, 5 mm wide, slightly concave medially, slightly dilated along the lower margin below the middle; **lip** dull purple with dark purple verrucae, elliptical-oblong, contracted below the middle into a truncate apex with the tip obtuse and decurved, 12 mm long, 7 mm wide, the disc diffusely and minutely verrucose, with an obscure, low pair of longitudinal calli, the base truncate, hinged beneath; **column** light yellow-green, semiterete, 10 mm long, the foot 10 mm long with a slender, incurved extension 4 mm long.

COLOMBIA: **Antioquia**: near Puerto Urabá, near sea level, collected by J.M. Serna, obtained from Orquídeas del Valle #136 by Rao, flowered in cultivation in Wilmington, DE, Mar. 2002, by V.N.M. Rao 85 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20106.

This species, only recently discovered growing near sea level near the Gulf of Urabá on the northern coast of Colombia, is obviously closely related to *M. velifera* that grows in the Central Cordillera over 2000 meters above sea level. Superficially, the flowers are very similar. From the latter, *M. veleva* differs with a smaller habit, smaller yellow flowers, and a lip constricted below the apex.



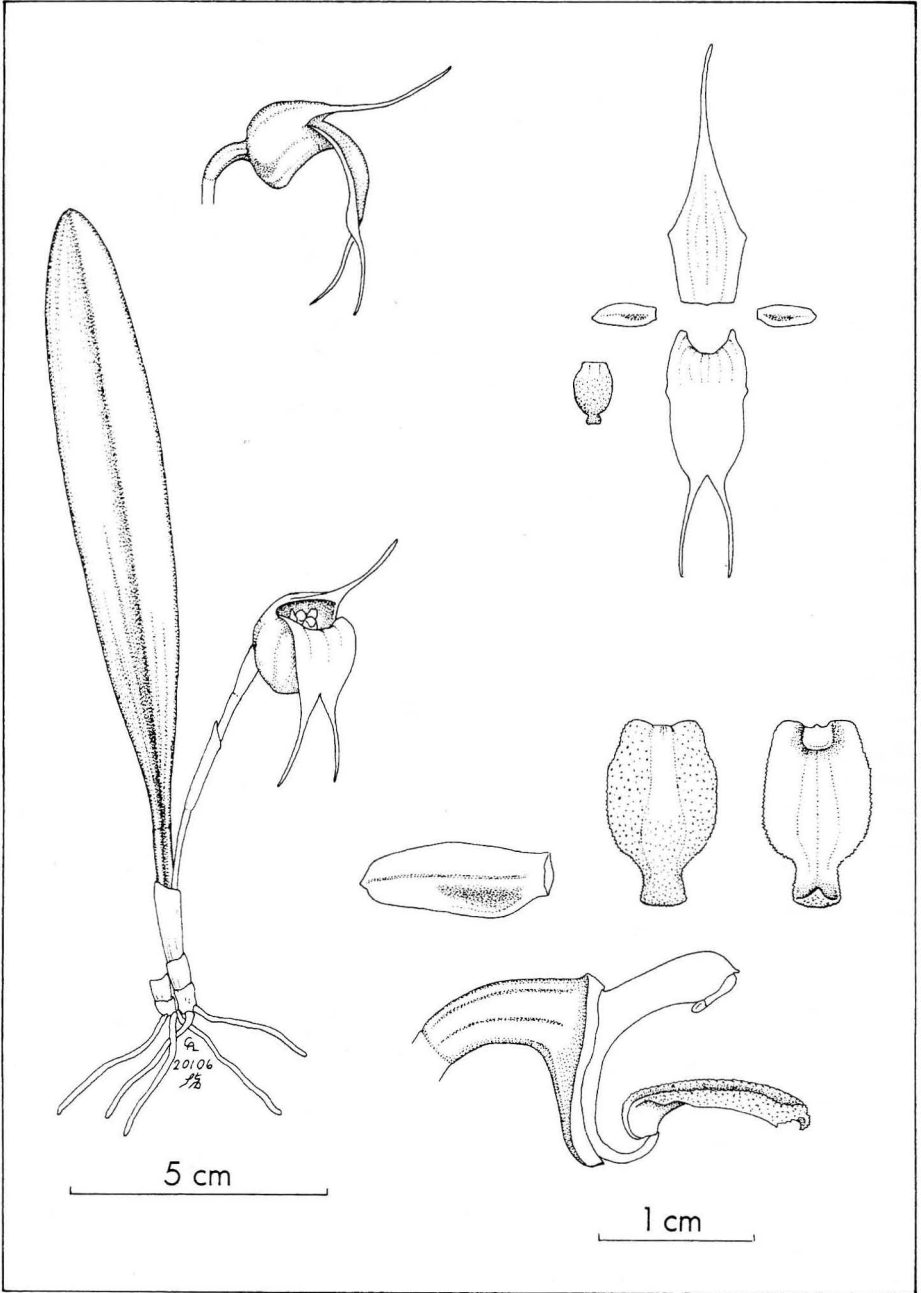


Plate 535. *Masdevallia veillea*