

**Masdevallia wuefflinghoffiana** Luer & Portilla, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Rudolph Wüfflinghoff of Stuttgart, Germany.

Inter species subsect. *Caudatae*, habitu mediocri, sepalis valde puniceis expansis obtusis longicaudatis, petalorum callo marginali basi breviter angulato, et labello elliptico apice calloso recurvo differt.

Plant medium in size for the subsection, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender; ramicauls blackish, slender, erect, 1-1.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, black, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, petiolate, 4.5-6.5 cm long including the blackish petiole 2-2.5 cm long, the blade elliptical, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 1.7-2.2 cm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a solitary flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 5-6 cm long, with a bract at the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract tubular, 8 mm long; pedicel 11 mm long; ovary 5-6 mm long; sepals intense red-purple, microscopically cellular-glandular within, the dorsal sepal erect, elliptical-obovate, flat to more or less convex, 18 mm long, 13 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 3 mm to form a widespread, shallow cup, the rounded apex abruptly contracted into a suberect or reflexed, slender, yellow tail 4 cm long, the lateral sepals elliptical-oblong, with the sides recurved in the natural position, 20 mm long, 13 mm wide, connate 6 mm into a shallow cavity beneath the column-foot, the apices rounded, contracted into tails slightly shorter than that of the dorsal sepal; petals white with purple midvein, oblong, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex subtruncate, obscurely bilobed, the lower margin with a longitudinal callus, ending in a short, obtuse angle at the base; lip erect, white, suffused with purple, elliptical, 4.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex obtuse, recurved, with a midline, marginal callus, the disc with a low pair of longitudinal calli on the middle third, the base thickened, subcordate, hinged beneath; column white, semiterete, 4 mm long, the foot 2 mm long with a short extension.

ECUADOR: **Zamora-Chinchipe**: between Loja and Zamora, alt. 1800 m, collected Oct. 1997 by Gilberto Merino, cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, Ecuador, Oct. 1999, *J. Portilla 10* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19243.

This species is closely allied to the *M. xanthina*-complex, but it is immediately distinguished by the intense, red-purple color of the sepals. It also differs with the dorsal sepal flat or convex instead of concave; and petals with the marginal callus ending in a short angle at the base instead of a thick, protruding process.

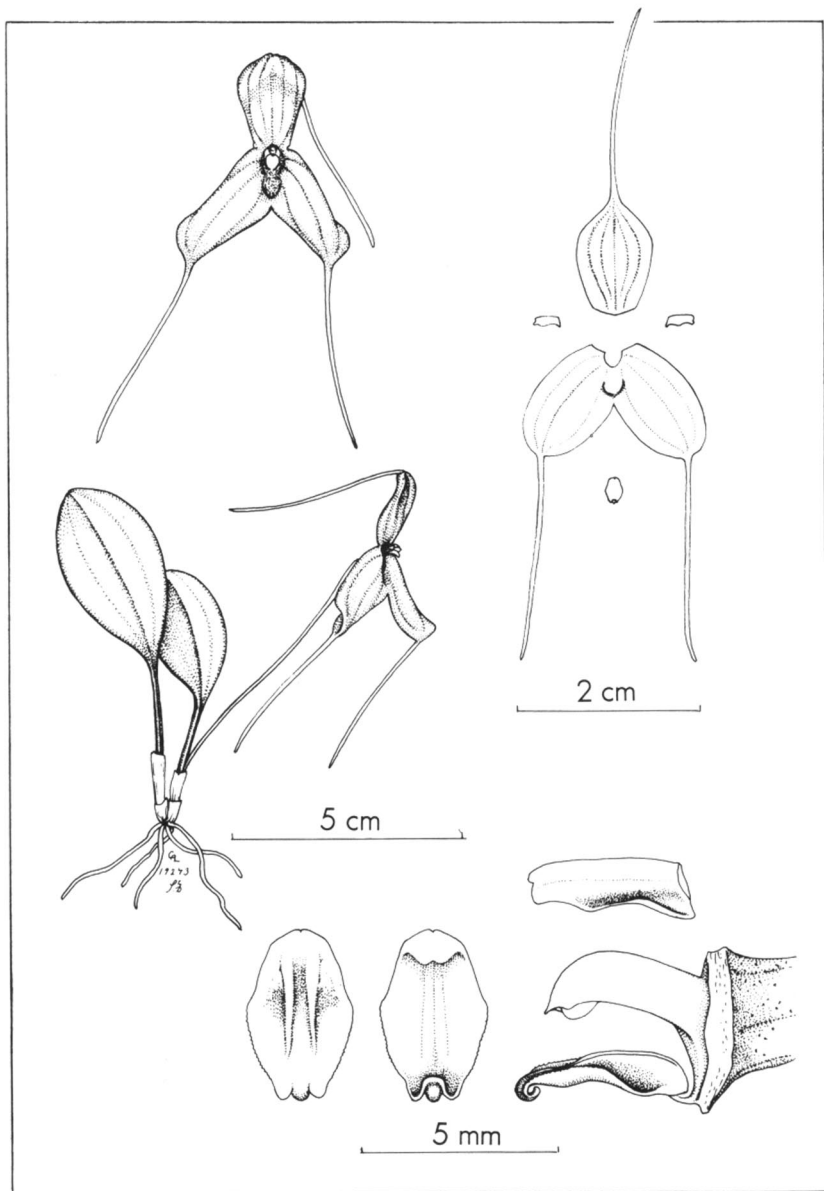


Fig. 11a. *Masdevallia wuelfinghoffiana*