

***Masdevallia dressleri* C. Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta minuta epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis brevissimis nifoliatis, foliis carnosis anguste ellipticis, racemo subfasciculato pedunculo labro filiformi folio longiore, flore solitario successivo marronino cum caudis epalorum aureis brevibus, synsepalo late ovato cymbiformi caudis ex apicibus oriundis, petalis oblongis pellucidis apice obtusis denticulatis, labello ubro anguste ovato obtuso base subsagittato disco bicalloso.

Plant very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stems inconspicuous, 2-4 mm long, concealed by 1-2 short, tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaves fleshy, narrowly elliptical, subacute, retuse, tridentate, the base cuneate, subpetiolate, 10-18 X 3-4 mm. Inflorescence contracted, subfasciculate raceme at the apex of a filiform peduncle, about 1 cm long, glabrous, from a node on the secondary stem; flowers produced singly and successively, maroon or red-brown with short, thick, yellow tails; oral bract tubular, 2.5 mm long; pedicel 3.5 mm long; ovary lightly verrucose, 1 mm long; dorsal sepal united to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm at the base, the lamina broadly obovate, concave, 3 X 3 mm, 3-veined and subcarinate along the veins, the margins minutely ciliate, the tail 4 mm long, the anterior sepal 7 X 3 mm; lateral sepals connate to above the middle into a broadly ovate, deeply navicular, cleft synsepal, the apices produced abruptly into tails 2 mm long, 6-8 mm long including the caudae, 5-6 mm wide; petals near-oblong, the apex truncate, apiculate to minutely denticulate, 2.5 X 0.5 mm, translucent yellow marked with purple; lip red, narrowly ovate-elliptical, the apex obtuse, convex, the base subsagittate-bilobed, the basal lobes protruding behind the articulation with the column-foot, disc with a low air of longitudinal calli extending forward from the basal lobes; column sheath, 2.5 mm long, with a pointed foot.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Robert L. Dressler, investigator of the flora of Panama, who has been long familiar with this species.

TYPE: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic along the Altos de Pacora road, alt. 650 m, 4 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. L. Dressler 730 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: PANAMA: PANAMA: Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m, F. L. Stevenson 9575-1 (SEL), flowered in cult. 5 Sept. 1975; **COCLÉ:** cloud forest above El Valle, alt. 1000 m, 15 Aug. 1971, H. Wiehler 71273a (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This minute species, probably identified in the past as *Masdevallia lenii* L. O. Wms., is locally abundant in eastern Panama. *Masdevallia dressleri* is easily distinguished by its shorter, thicker leaves, smaller flowers, the broad, deep, boat-shaped synsepal, and short sepaline tails, the tails of the lateral sepals originating from the sides of the apices, not below the apices.

The lip is very similar to those of the other members of the section *riaristellae*.

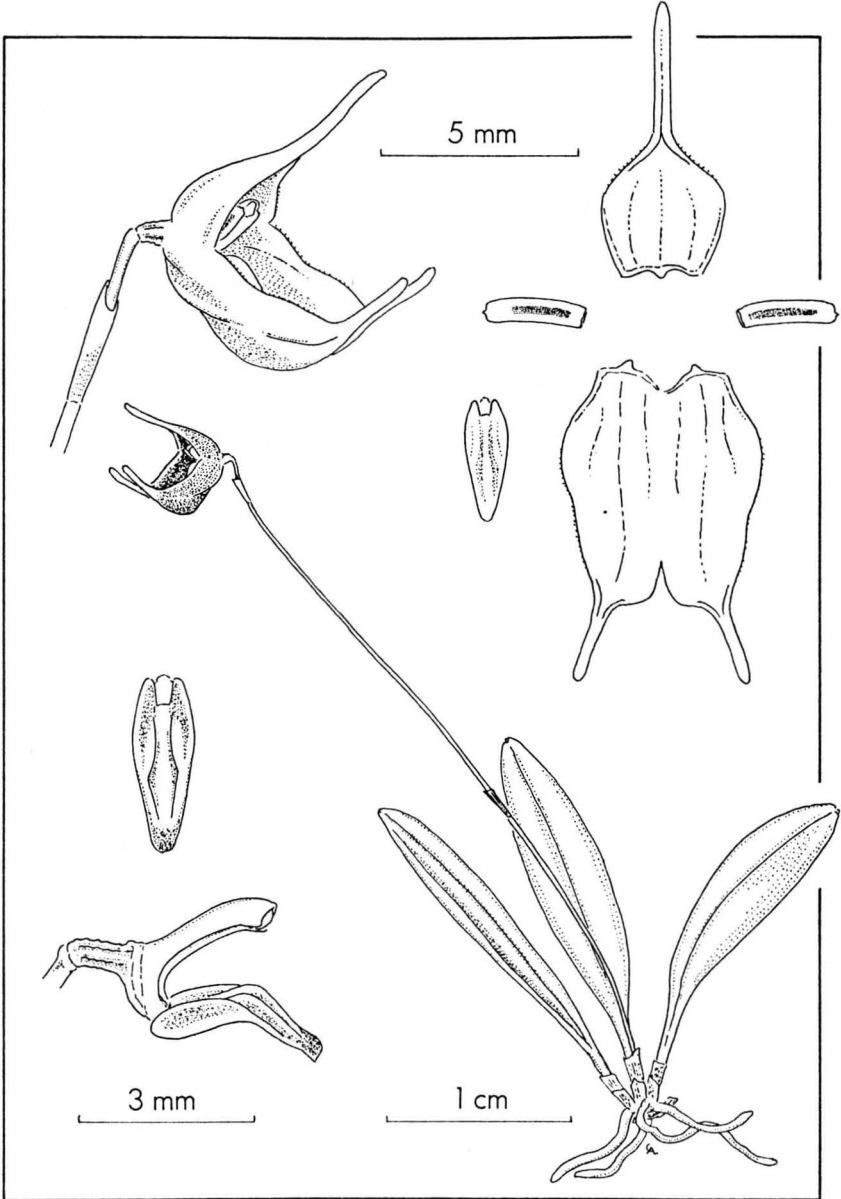


Figure 113. MASDEVALLIA DRESSLERI C. A. Luer