

Masdevallia triceratops Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec ab *M. pusilla* Rolfe differt floribus majoribus, caudis sepalorum brevioribus, epichilio labelli latiore.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 1-1.5 cm long, concealed by 2-3 short, tubular, invaginating sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf erect, coriaceous, fleshy, narrowly obovate, the apex obtuse, tridenticulate, the base narrowly cuneate, gradually petiolate, 8-17 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide. Inflorescence a descending, distantly few-flowered (1-3) raceme, 4-10 cm long, the peduncle slender, from a node on the secondary stem; flowers small, fleshy, not widely spread, produced singly and successively; floral bract 8-10 mm long; pedicel 5-10 mm long, ovary 4 mm long, with 3 green, wavy crests; sepals united into a shallow sepaline cup, cream-colored, heavily spotted and marked with red-purple, the caudae thickened and purple, glabrous externally, spiculate within, the spicules commonly branched, the dorsal sepal ovate-rhomboid, united basally for 2 mm with the lateral sepals, the apex acuminate, caudate, 16-18 mm long, 9 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into a concave, suborbicular, bicaudate synsepal, 12 mm long excluding the 2.5 mm long tails, 15 mm across after being spread; petals yellow-green, marked with purple, oblong, the apex rounded and bivalved, tuberculose between the apical plates, 3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; lip yellow-orange, marked with pink, thick, oblong-obovate, geniculate, the apex dilated and rounded into an indistinct epichile, shallowly concave, verruculose and rugose, the margin minutely irregular, with a median crest beneath, the hypochile with erect, broadly rounded angles, deeply cleft centrally, flanked by a pair of lamellae which extend forward onto the epichile; column cylindrical, white, 4 mm long, bidentate above the anther, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *triceratops*, "three-horned-faced" (*tri*, "three-," *ceras*, "horn," and *ops*, "eye, face"), in allusion to the resemblance to the celebrated dinosaur.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: MANABI: epiphytic near the summit of Cerro Montecristi, alt. 650 m, 1 April 1961, *C. H. Dodson* 383 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: without definite locality, cultivated at Puyo by *Joe Brenner* 5 (SEL), flowered in cult. 20 March 1976.

This species is probably endemic in the mountains of western Ecuador. It is apparently allied to the Central American *Masdevallia pusilla* Rolfe. Vegetatively it is similar to many others in the *Chimaeroideae* section. The raceme creeps downward and produces at intervals a rigid, red-purple-spotted flower. The sepaline cup is shallow, and the sepals do not spread widely, the three short tails pointing more or less forward, so that the flower looks like a small rhinoceros beetle resting upon the bark. The bivalved petals are typical of the section. The division of the thick, geniculate lip into an epichile and hypochile is indistinct. The rounded epichile is broader, shallowly concave and superficially rugose; the hypochile is deeply cleft.

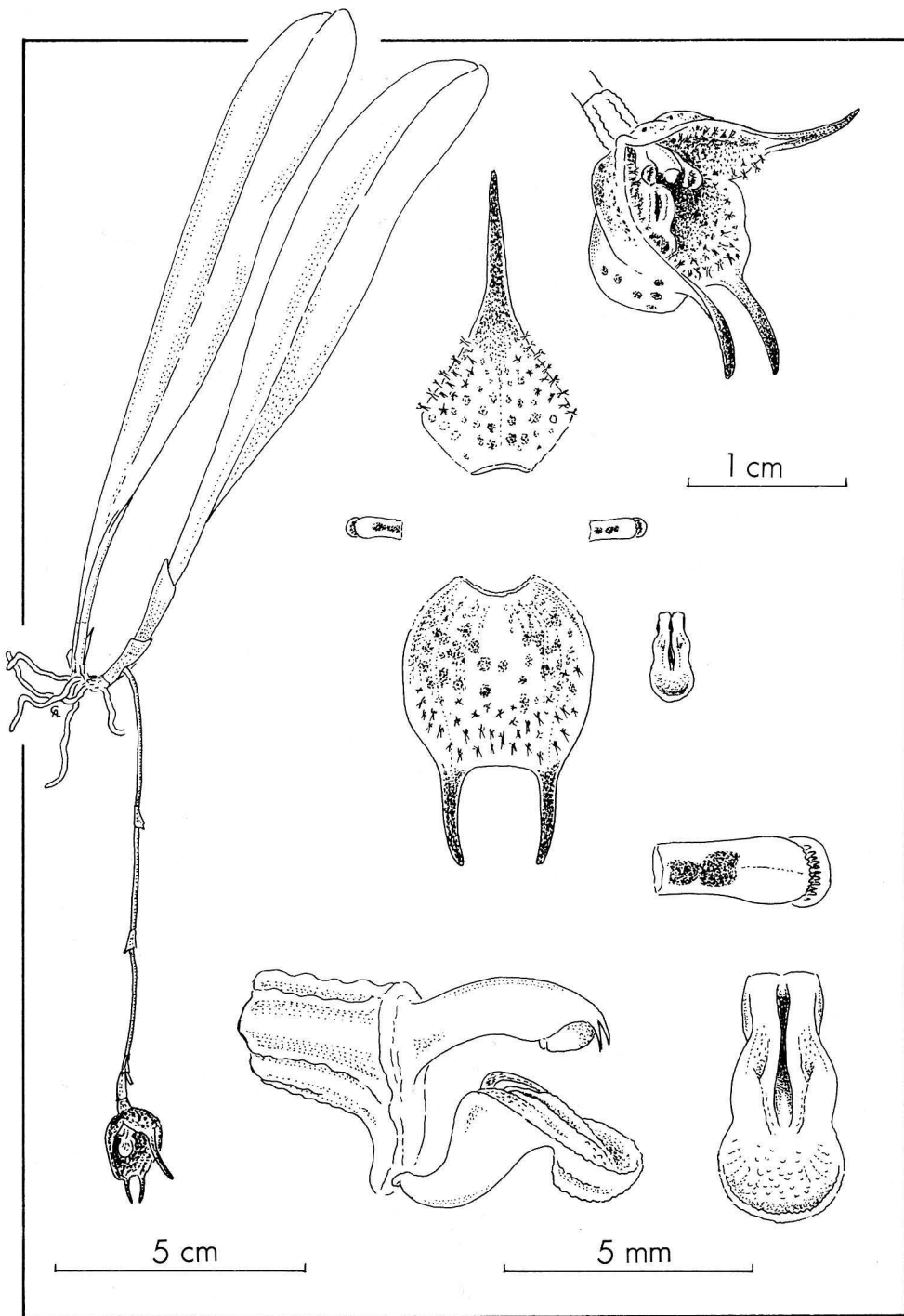


Figure 212. MASDEVALLIA TRICERATOPS Luer