

Masdevallia ametroglossa Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

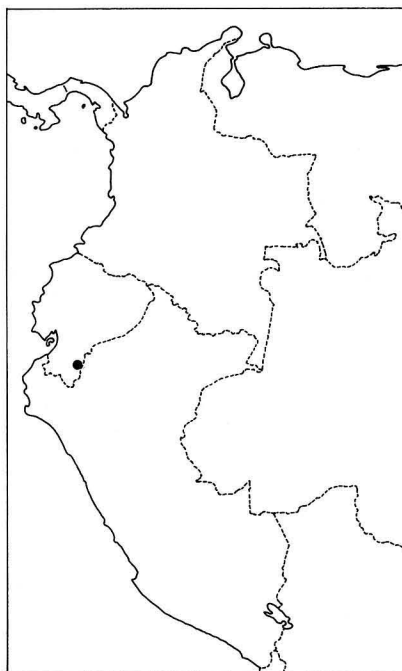
Ety.: From the Greek *ametroglossa*, "an immense tongue," referring to the labellum.

Inter species sect. *Alaticaulis*, planta mediocris parvave, pedunculo longissimo, flore mediocri, sepalis lateralibus revolutis in tubo formantibus, petalis oblongis ad basim incrassatis, et labello immenso protuberanti distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fleshy. Ramicauls stout, erect, 1.5-2 cm long, enclosed by 2 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-obovate, subacute to obtuse, 10-11 cm long, 1.4-1.8 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into an ill-defined petiole. **Inflor-escence** a congested, successively flowered raceme, borne by a stout, erect, triquetrous peduncle, 24-27 cm long, with a bract at the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts imbricating, oblique, 10 mm long; pedicels ca. 5 mm long; ovary 7 mm long; **sepals** fleshy, light yellow-green, glabrous, the blade of the dorsal sepal obovate, 12 mm long, 10 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 10 mm to form a cylindrical sepaline tube, the free portion broadly triangular, subacute, contracted into an erect or recurved, stout, yellow-green tail 25-30 mm long, the lateral sepals connate 25 mm into a subovoid synsepal 40 mm long, 18 mm wide, 6-veined, concave basally, with the sides recurved beyond the tube into cylindrical, contiguous tubes, with the free ends 10-12 mm long; **petals** white, oblong, 10 mm long, 3 mm wide, the apex tridentate, the labellar half with a low, longitudinal callus along the margin ending in a globose swelling at the base; **lip** greenish white, oblong-subpanduriform, 15 mm long, 5 mm wide, with a pair of longitudinal carinae with oblique folds below the middle, the epichile cellular, elliptical, obtuse, with a midline callus, also callous beneath the tip, the hypochile oblong, shallowly concave between the carinae, the base truncate, retuse, with a pair of calli flanking a shallow, central cleft, hinged beneath; **column** semiterete, 4 mm long, the foot 2 mm long with a distinct, incurved extension.

ECUADOR: **Zamora-Chinchipe**: Cordillera del Condor, Nangariza Zurmi, alt. 800 m, cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, Ecuador, 11 July 2002, A. Hirtz 8386 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20194.

This species, recently found in the Cordillera del Condor, is a member of the section *Alaticaulis*. Vegetatively, it is relatively small for the subsection, but with a proportionately long, stout peduncle. The flower is yellow-green and of average size. The tail of the dorsal sepal is erect or slightly recurved; the sides of the lateral sepals beyond the sepaline tube are recurved individually into adjacent tubes. The immense lip protrudes beyond the orifice of the sepaline tube.



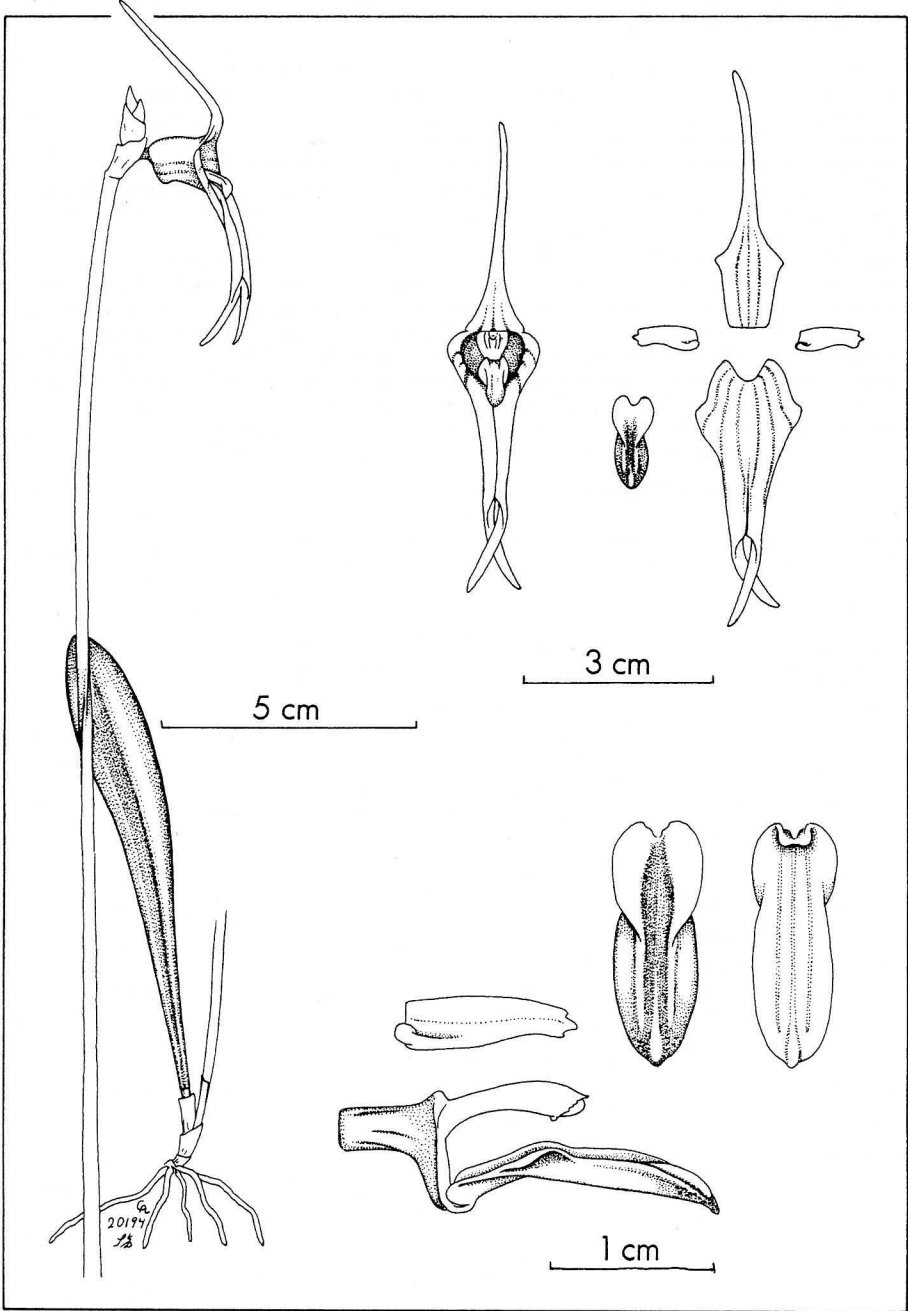


Plate 649. *Masdevallia ametroglossa*