

Masdevallia barrowii Luer, sp. nov.

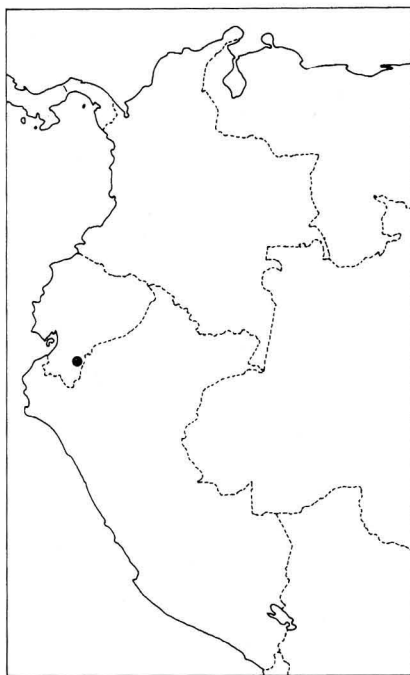
Ety.: Named for Roy Barrow of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England, who cultivates this species.

Species haec *M. bicolor* Poepp. & Endl. affinis, sed floribus rubiginosis supra folios portatis, sepalis lateralibus expansis marginalibus leviter recurvis differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls erect, stout, 2-3 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, 9-12 cm long including an indistinct petiole 1-1.5 cm long, the blade elliptical-obovate, subacute to obtuse, 2-2.2 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into the subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** a congested, few-flowered raceme, usually with 2 flowers open simultaneously, borne by a stout, erect, sharply triquetrous peduncle 11-15 cm long, with a basal bract, from the base of a ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, imbricating, 8-9 mm long; pedicel 10-12 mm long; ovary 5 mm long; **sepals** rosy red-brown, glabrous externally with the midveins prominent, cellular-glandular within, the dorsal sepal 30 mm long including a tail ca. 17 mm long, 8 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 7 mm to form a cylindrical tube, the free portion triangular, acute, triangular, contracted into the stout, forwardly directed tail, the lateral sepals connate 14 mm into an ovate, bifid lamina ca. 18 mm long, 19 mm wide, with a broad, shallow mentum, the apices acute, contracted into tails ca. 7 mm long; **petals** yellowish, oblong, 6 mm long, 2 mm wide, both halves with low longitudinal calli, the apex subtruncate, retuse between a pair of obtuse, thickened angles; **lip** red-purple, oblong, 6 mm long unexpanded, 7 mm long expanded, 2.5 mm wide, the margins with rounded folds near the middle, the apex rounded, recurved, with 3 thickened veins, minutely verrucose, minutely apiculate, the hypochile oblong, flat, subtruncate at the base, hinged beneath; **column** purple, semiterete, 5 mm long, the foot thick, 3 mm long with an incurved extension.

ECUADOR: **Zamora-Chinchi**: Cordillera del Condor, Chinapintza, alt. 1500 m, collected by I. Acaro, cultivated at Royden Orchids, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England, Jan. 2002, *R. Barrow RO16* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20082; cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, 2 Feb. 2002, *A. Hirtz 8058* (MO).

This Ecuadorian species is related to the widely distributed, frequent and variable *M. bicolor*, but in flower it appears distinctly different. Two simultaneous, rosy red-brown flowers with rosy red-brown tails are held above the leaves by a strict, triquetrous peduncle. Beyond the tube, the synsepal is expanded with slightly recurving sides, not concave as seen in *M. bicolor*. The tail of the dorsal sepal is at least as long as the blade, and the tails of the lateral sepals are distinctly shorter than the blades. Within the sepaline tube, the petals, lip and column are similar to those of the variable *M. bicolor*. In this particular clone, the apices of the petals are retuse between a pair of thickened angles, but the apices of most allied species are variable. The apex of the lip is recurved, but the lip of allied species is also variable.



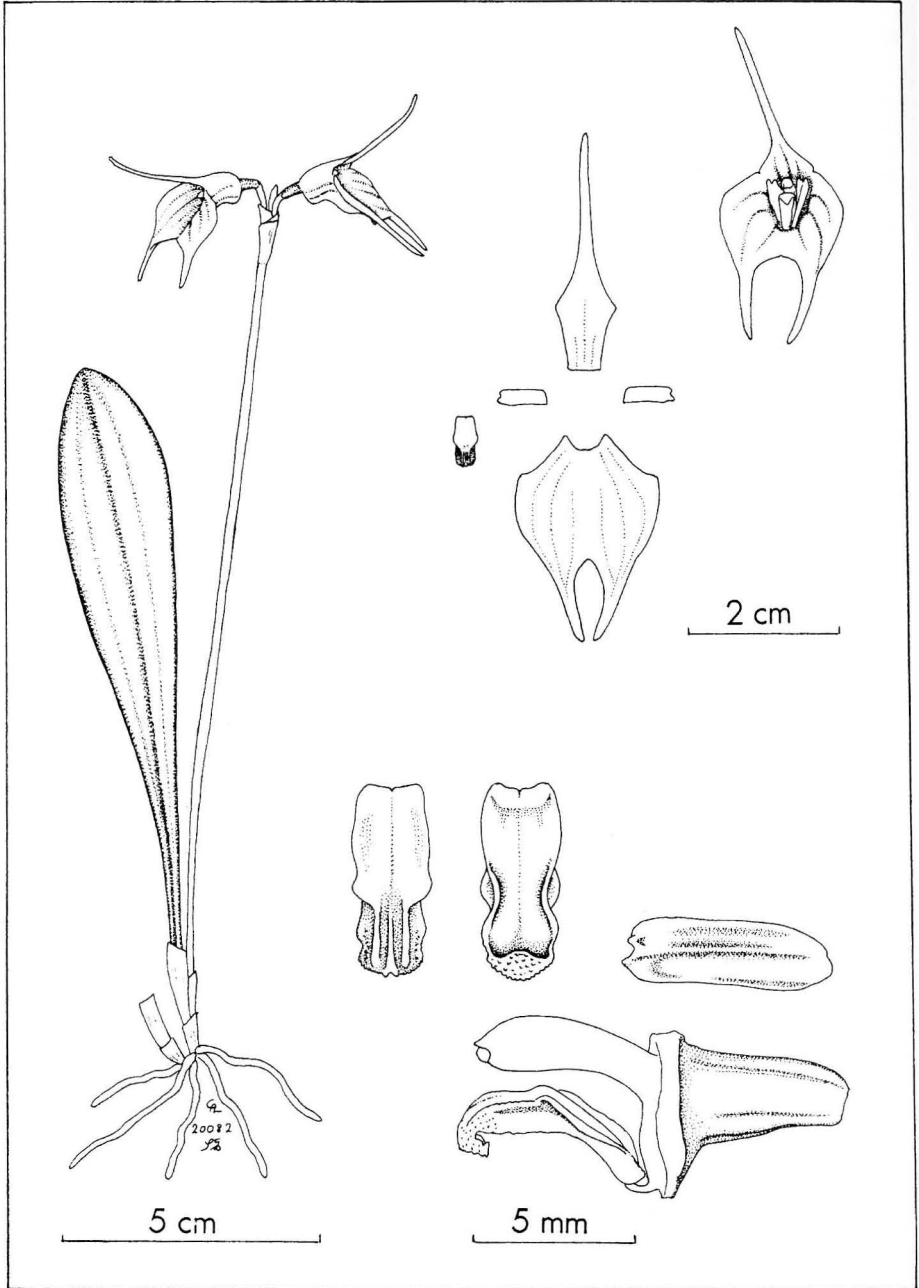


Plate 532. *Masdevallia barrowii*