

Masdevallia racemosa

LINDL.

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Synonyms: *Spectaculum racemosum* (Lindl) Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 105: 14. 2006.

Type: Colombia. Above Popayán, Páramo de Puracé, 3000 m, 1843 K. T. Hartweg 1432, (holotype: K!, Isotypes: BM, G, LD, P, W).

Illustrated specimen: Colombia. Cauca, Puracé: Limites con el PNN Puracé, 3200 m, 10 de abril de 2017, J.S. Moreno 418 (CAUP; LCDP voucher).

Plant terrestrial, long repent, 20–22 cm tall including the inflorescence. *Ramicauls* stout, erect, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths, 2.5–3 cm long. *Leaves* 4.5–5 cm long, erect, thickly coriaceous, subpetiolate, narrowly elliptic, subacute, the base narrowly cuneate into the petiole, 2.5 cm long. *Inflorescence* loose, successively few to several flowered raceme, 17–18 cm long; peduncle slender, erect, 12–13 cm long. *Ovary* red, sub-verrucose, 4–4.5 × 1.5 cm. *Flowers* red–orange, successive, 2 open at one time, resupinate; no fragrance recorded. *Dorsal sepal* red-orange, oblong, connate to the lateral sepals for 12 mm to form a cylindrical sepaline tube, broadly ovate, obtuse apex, produced into and acuminate apiculum, 18–19 × 8 mm. *Lateral sepals* red-orange, 23 mm long, connate 12 mm into a lamina that is oblong below the middle, 8 mm wide, abruptly dilated beyond the tube into a subquadrate lamina 22 mm wide, with the diverging apices rounded, each with a minute acuminate apiculum. *Petals* light orange, elliptical, acute, the labellar half with a low elliptical callus, 3–4 × 2 mm. *Lip* white with yellow margins in the apex, oblong, the apex rounded, disc sulcate between a pair of low calli, base cordate, 3.5 × 1 mm. *Column* white-yellow, suffused with purple dots ventrally, semiterete, apex erose, slightly arched toward the apex, 5 × 1.5 mm. *Anther cap* obovoid, papillose, 1.2 × 1 mm. *Pollinia* 2, obovoid, laterally compressed, sub-equal, 1.2 × 0.8 mm.

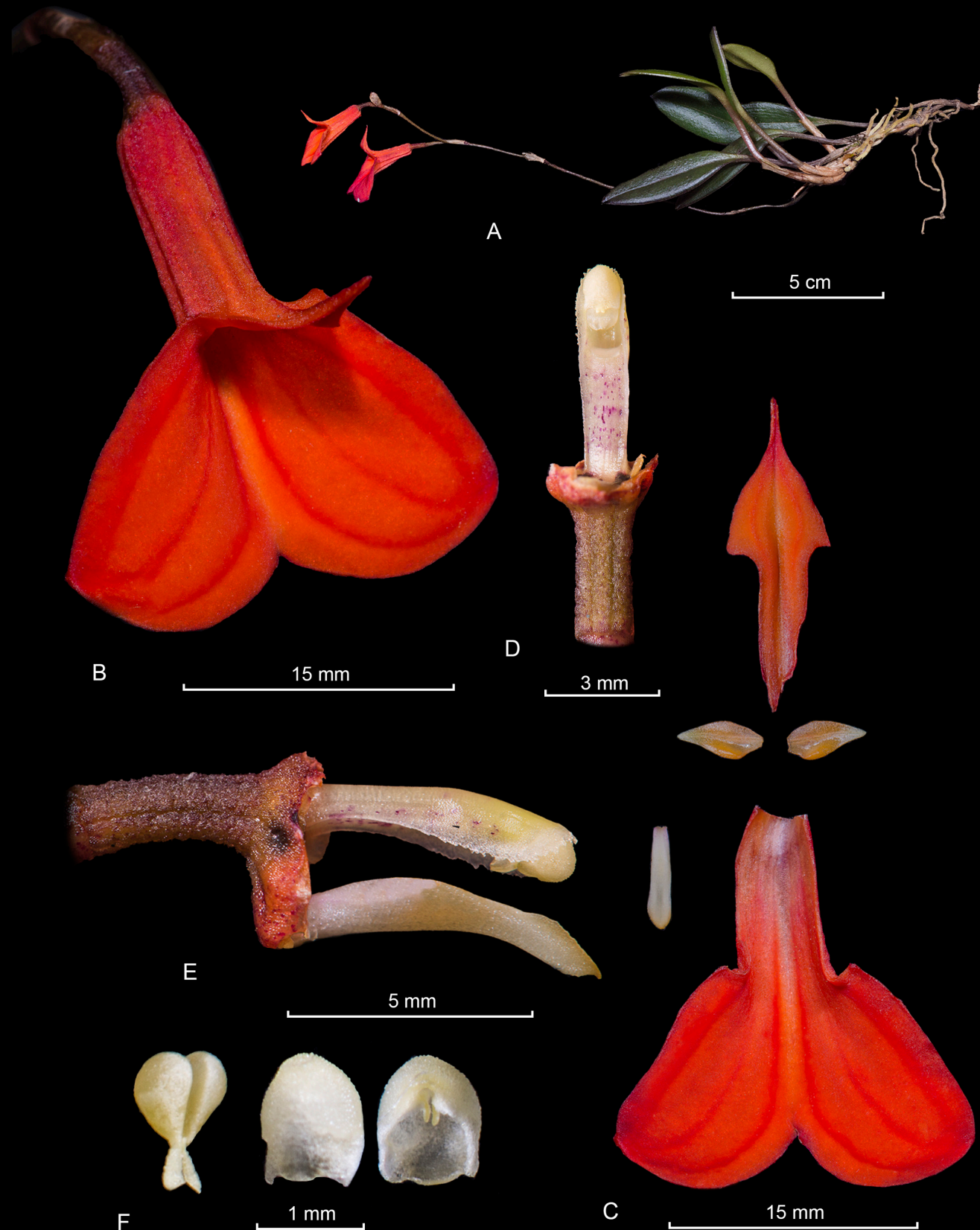
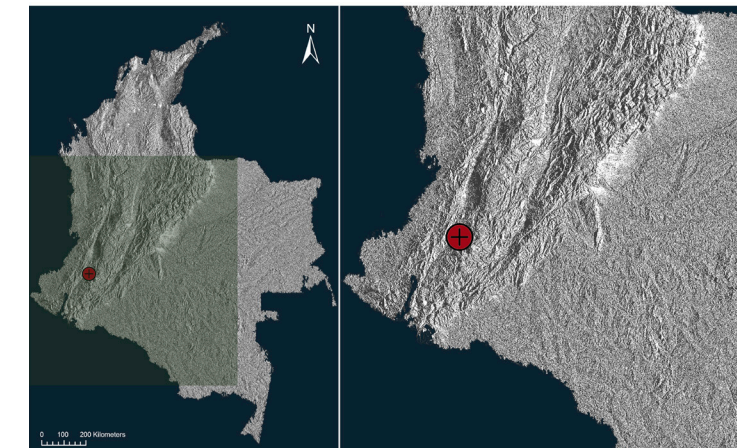
Masdevallia racemosa, an endemic species from the Central Cordillera in Cauca department, is recognized by its long repent habit, with a creeping or ascending rhizome, a loose inflorescence of successive and simultaneous intense red-orange flowers, deeply

connate sepals forming sepaline tube, elliptical acute petals and an oblong lip.

Like other *Masdevallia* species with large, brightly-colored flowers, *M. racemosa* is commonly believed to be hummingbird pollinated. Nevertheless, the morphology of petals, lip and column, as can be seen in the LCDP, is consistent with fly pollination instead.

References:

Luer, C. A. 2003. Icones Pleurothallidarum XXV: Systematics of *Masdevallia*, Part Five. *Monographs in Systematic Botany from the Missouri Botanical Garden* 91: 1049-1293.



LCDP: *Masdevallia racemosa* Lindl. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Column, ventral view. E. Ovary with column and lip. F. Pollinia and anther cap.

