

*Masdevallia coccinea*LINDEN EX LINDL.
ORCHID. LINDEN. 5. 1846

Type: Colombia. Santander: Old Dept. of Ocaña, terrestrial, on the southern slopes of the high mountains near Pomplona, alt. 9,500 ft.. April 1843, *J. Linden 1262* (holotype, K; isotypes, BR, W).

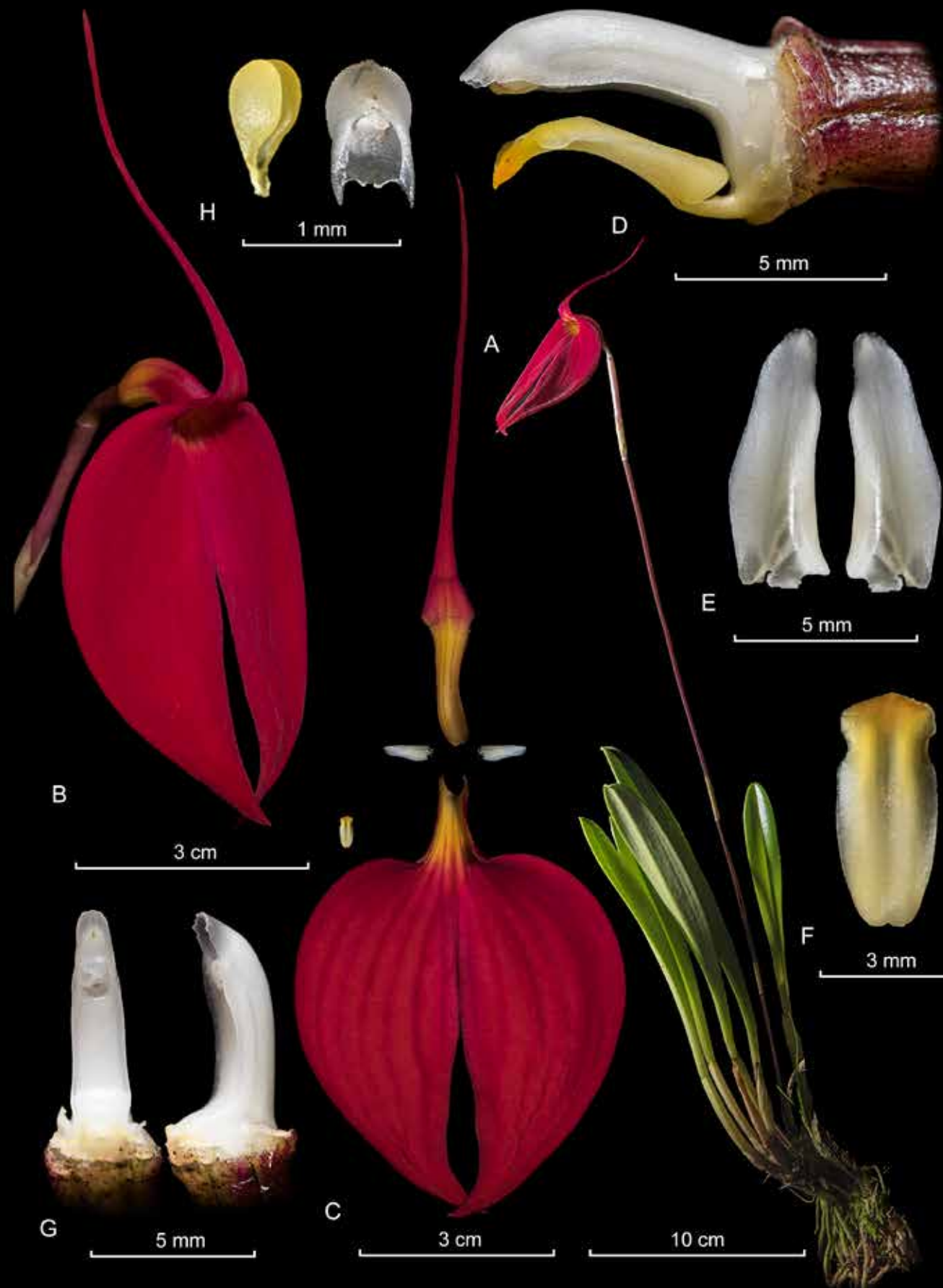
Illustrated specimen: Colombia. Boyacá: Santa Rosa de Viterbo, 2800 J. S. Moreno & Fredy Alexander Acosta 518 (CAUP; LCDP voucher).

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.

Plant terrestrial, caespitose, up to 20 cm tall, excluding the inflorescence, roots flexuous, slender. *Ramicauls* erect, 5–8 cm long. *Leaves* erect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, obtuse, 10–15 × 1.5–2 cm. *Inflorescence* elongate, erect, bearing a solitary flower, 8 cm tall; peduncle erect, 35–38 cm long. *Ovary* cylindrical, 12 mm long. *Sepals* large, red. *Dorsal sepal* connate to the lateral sepals in the basal fourth, narrowly obovate, with a long slender, reflexed tail, 8.5–9.0 × 0.3–0.8 cm. *Lateral sepals* oblique, broadly falcate, connate for about one third of their length, into a bifid lamina, 6.5 × 5 cm. *Petals* white, oblong, apex obtuse, labellar margin with a longitudinal callus ending in a short, tooth at the base, 7 × 2 mm. *Lip* yellowish, oblong-subpandurate, with a pair of low longitudinal calli near the middle, the apex rounded, with a slight point, 5.25 × 2.5 mm. *Column* white, semiterete, 7 mm long; the foot 2 mm long with a short, incurved extension. *Anther cap* cucullate, 1 × 0.5 mm. *Pollinia* two, ovoid, 1 mm long.

Masdevallia coccinea is a widely distributed species in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia, being locally abundant. It is “a most remarkable plant”, with large, bright red flowers. The lateral sepals are tail-less, and the tail of the dorsal sepal is commonly erect, sometimes directed either slightly backwards or forwards.



LCDP: *Masdevallia coccinea* Linden ex Lindl. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Ovary, column and lip. E. Petals. F. Lip, adaxial view. G. Column, ventral and side view. H. Anther cap and pollinia.

