

Dracula lemurella

LUER & R. ESCOBAR
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Type: Colombia. Dept. of Antioquia: Munic. of Yarumal, Briceño, "El Oro", La Segunda Bodega, alt. 1650 m, 26 Nov. 1974, collected by G. Misas et al., flowered in cultivation at La Ceja by M. & O. Robledo, 27 Sept. 1977. R. Escobar 1540 (holotype: JAUM; isotype: SEL).

Illustrated specimen: Colombia. Antioquia: Municipio de Yarumal. Distrito Regional de Manejo Integrado "Alto de Ventanas", reserva Natural Los Magnolios. 1500 m, 12 de septiembre 2018. S. Vieira 031 & M. Mazo (JAUM; LCDP Voucher).

Epiphytic, densely caespitose *herb*, up to 15 cm tall. *Roots* slender, up to 1 mm in diameter. *Ramicauls* stout, erect to sub-erect, 2 cm long, enclosed by 2 loose, tubular sheaths. *Leaf* carinate, narrowly ovate to linear, acute, 10–20 cm long including an indistinct petiole, 1–1.5 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into the conduplicate base. *Inflorescence* much shorter than the leaf, a lax, successively few flowered raceme, borne by a slender, slightly horizontal peduncle 5 cm long, from low on the ramicaul. *Floral bract* tubular, 6–7 mm long. *Pedicel* 7–8 mm long. *Ovary* brown, verrucose, 4 mm long. *Sepals* cream-colored, densely dotted with brown below the middle, pubescent within. *Dorsal sepal* broadly obovate, to orbicular, 7–8 × 8–9 mm, connate to the lateral sepals for 4 mm to form a widely spread flower, the obtuse apex contracted into a slender, erect, red-purple tail 2.7 cm long. *Lateral sepals* broadly obovate, oblique, 11–12 × 11–13 mm, connate 5 mm into a broad, shallow mentum, the obtuse apices contracted into slender tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal. *Petals* cream-colored, marked with brown, cartilaginous, oblong, 3.5 × 2.0 mm, the apex bivalvate, papillose between the laminae, the inner lamina subacute, the outer lamina rounded, recurved. *Lip* white, dotted with pink, oblong-subpandurate, 4.5 × 2.5 mm, the epichile transversely ovate, obtuse, 2 × 3 mm, shallowly concave with a tall, thick, verrucose callus extending out from the hypochile, with one incomplete lamina on either side, verrucose externally, the hypochile thick, oblong, 3 × 3 mm, with erect, rounded, marginal angles, broadly and deeply cleft centrally, the base concave, hinged to the column-foot. *Column* white, stout, semiterete, slightly curved down, 3.5 mm long, with a thick foot 3 mm long. *Pollinia*

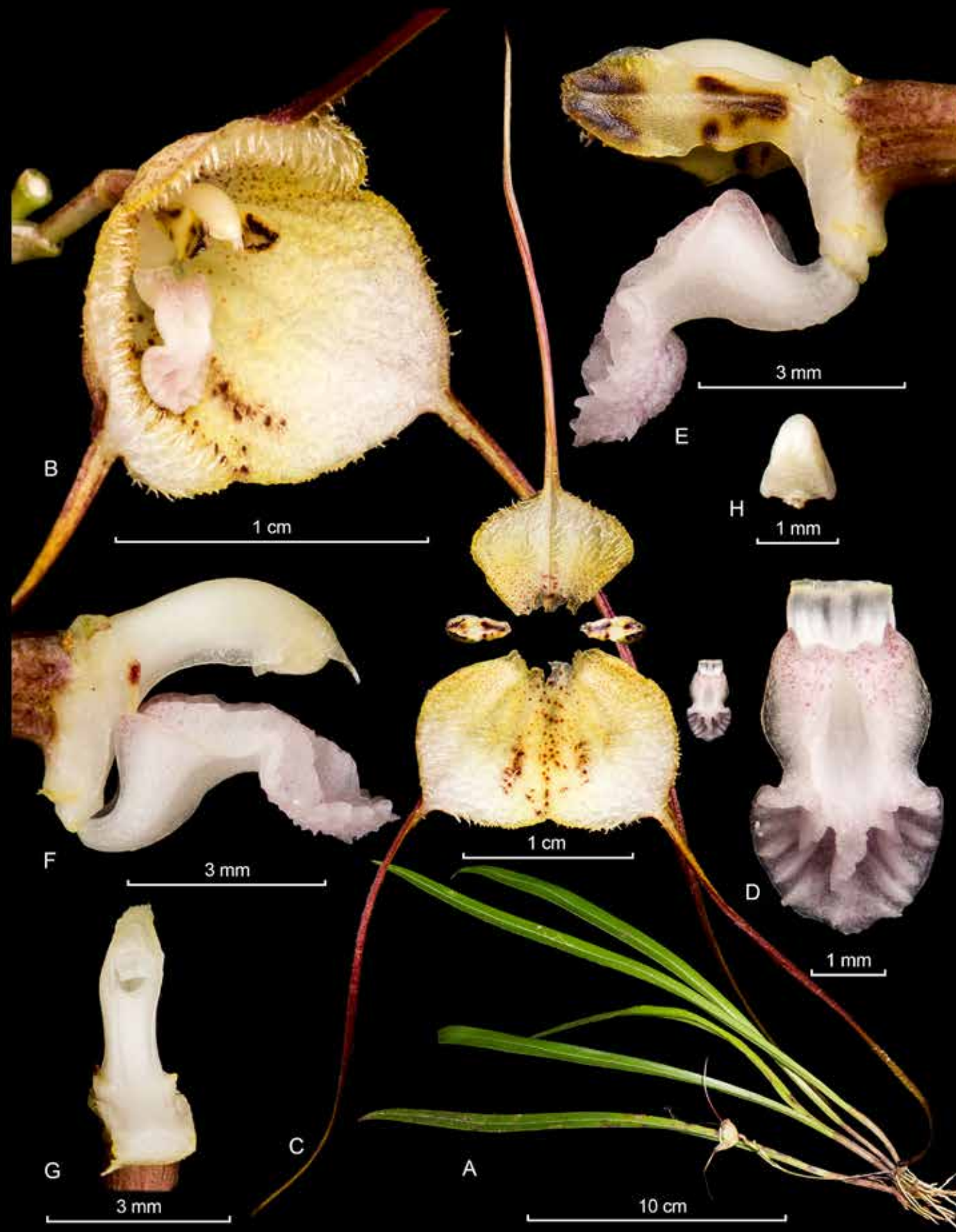
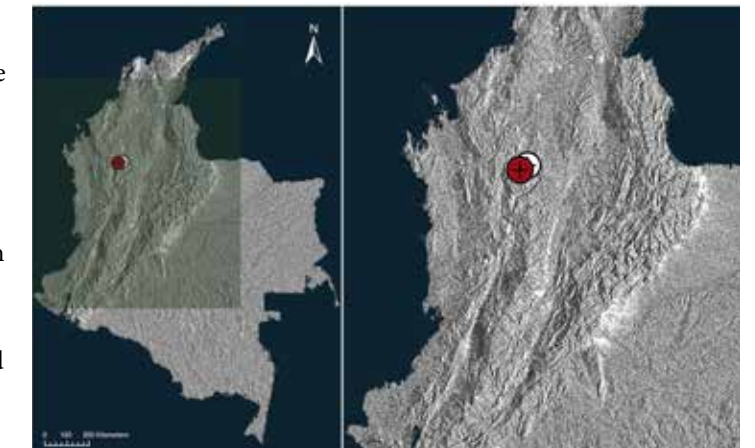
yellow, two, ovoid. *Anther cap* white, apical.

Dracula lemurella is recognized by its narrow leaves, small, successive and pubescent, cream colored flowers. The small and externally verrucose epichile has three prominent lamellae and is smaller than the hypochile with a predominantly deep cavity.

References:

Luer, C. A. & Escobar, R. 1981. Nuevas descripciones del género *Dracula* Luer. *Orquideología* 15(1): 23-27.

Luer, C. A. 1993. Icones Pleurothallidarum X. Systematics of *Dracula*. *Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard.* 46: 124-125.



LCPD: *Dracula lemurella* Luer & R. Escobar. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Lip, adaxial view. E. Column, lip and petals, lateral view. F. Column and lip, lateral view. G. Column, ventral view. H. Anther cap.

