

Masdevallia fulvescens

ROLFE

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Synonyms: *Reichantha fulvescens* (Rolfe) Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 105: 13. 2006.

Type: Costa Rica: without locality, Dec. 1889, imported by F. Horsman s.n. (holotype, K).

Illustrated specimen: Costa Rica. Heredia: San Isidro, 1688 m, 30 diciembre 2013. D. Bogarín et al. 10823 (JBL-spirit; LCDP voucher).

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, erect to suberect, up to 11 cm tall. Roots flexuous, to 1 mm wide. *Ramicauls* erect to suberect, up to 2 cm long, enclosed by 2–3 tubular, white sheaths 7–15 mm long. *Leaves* light green becoming dark green when mature, erect to suberect, coriaceous, smooth, oblanceolate to spatulate, from an aequilateral base, emarginated, with a tiny apiculus, 3–9 cm long including the petiole, 1.5–2.0 cm wide, the base gradually narrowed into the petiole 15–20 mm long. *Inflorescence* successive-flowered; *peduncle* light green, smooth, suberect, to 8 cm long, with two bracts, one at the base and the other near to the pedicel; *floral bract* light green, tubular, 12 × 4 mm; *pedicel* light green, terete, 13 mm long. *Ovary* terete, light green, with 6 longitudinal grooves, 4 × 3 mm. *Flowers* fleshy, the dorsal sepal yellow with four cardinal channels, the synsepal white at the base, with two channels wine-red on the sides, the blade purple with six channels, dark purple, four yellow veins at the base and two white veins towards the tails, the sepaline tails yellow in the dorsal sepal and greenish yellow in the lateral sepals, the petals and the lip white, sparsely dotted with purple. *Dorsal sepal* oblong, 8.5 cm long including tail, 0.7 cm wide, connate 1.6 cm to the lateral sepals to form a sepaline tube, basally narrow, the free portion 7 cm long including the 6 cm long and thin tail. *Lateral sepals* subrhombic, 9 cm long including the tails, connate 1.6 cm to form a lamina 1.7 cm wide when expanded, the free portion 7 cm long including the tail, each half basally deltoid, narrowed apically into a thin, descending and backward to 5.7 cm long apical tail. *Petals* ovate, oblique, unguiculate, 5–6 × 3 mm, apex rounded with an additional apicule on the upper margin, the labellar margin entire, thickened at the base to form an inconspicuous callus. *Lip* subpandurate, obtuse, 5 × 2 mm, the base subcordate, with a joint

connecting to the column foot, with a minute bulky callus along the central vein. *Column* white with purple dots, semiterete, 5 × 1 mm, column foot 1–2 mm long, the apex lacerate. *Anther cap* white, cucullate. Pollinia two, yellow, ovoid, on a whitish caudicle.

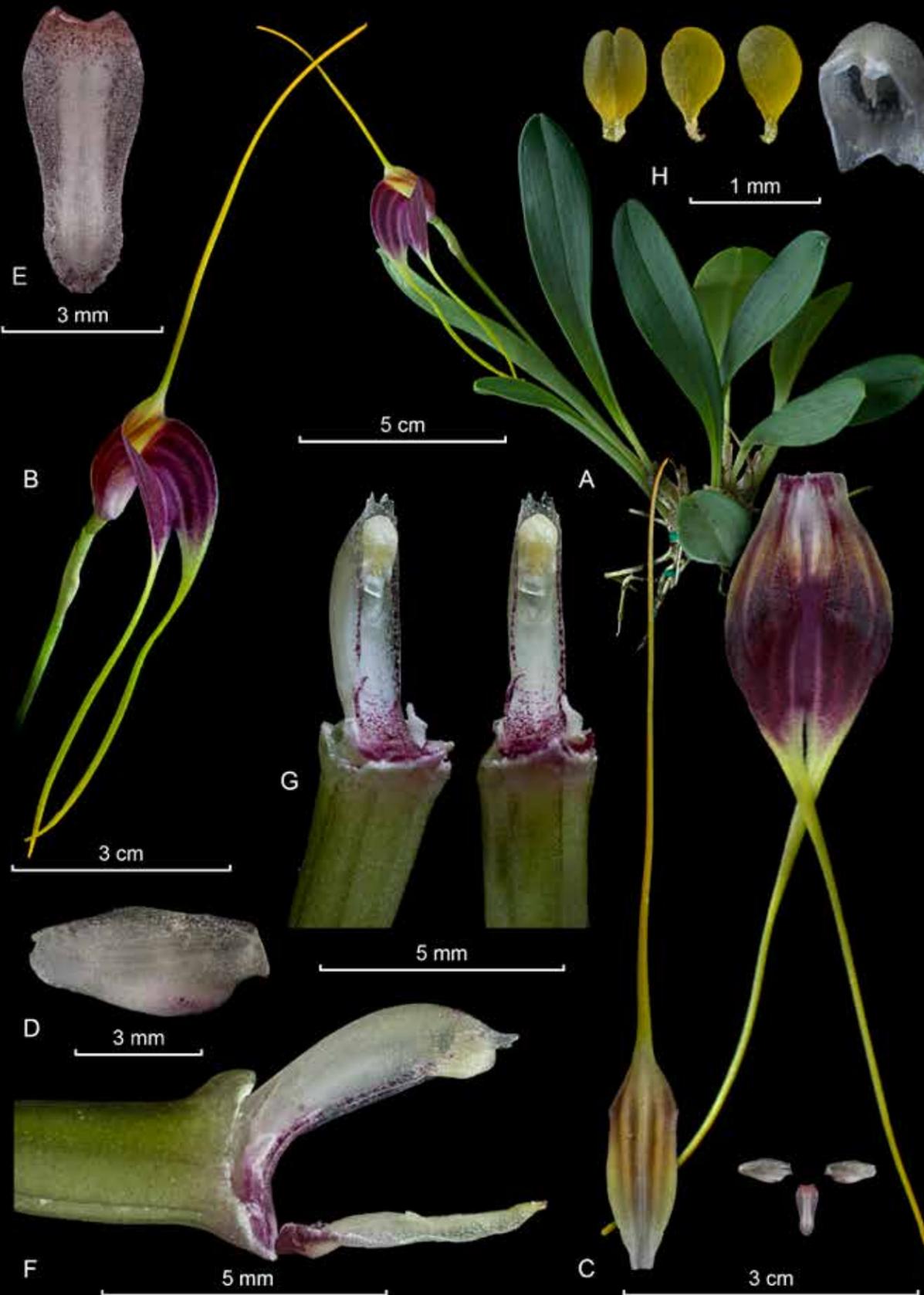
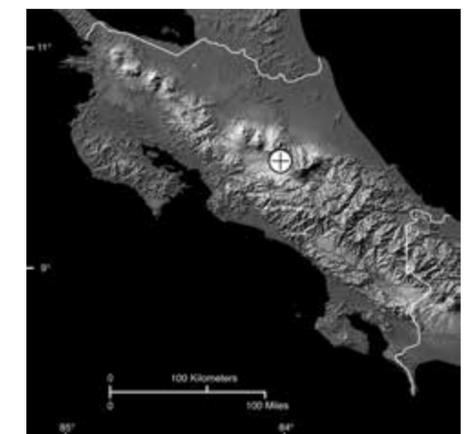
Etymology: From the Latin *fulvescens*, “tawny”, referring to the yellowish-brown color of the flowers.

Masdevallia fulvescens belongs to a group of morphologically similar and genetically closely related species, including *M. calura*, *M. reichenbachiana*, *M. rolfeana* and *M. schroederiana*. It is mainly distinguished from its close relatives by the slightly arched sepaline tube, (a straight funnel-shaped in the other species), which is distinctly compressed laterally.

References:

Luer, C. A. 2000. Icones pleurothallidarum. XXI. Systematics of *Masdevallia*, Part Two. *M.* subgenus *Masdevallia*, section *Coriaceae*, section *Dentatae*, section *Duriae*, section *Reiehenbachianae*, *M.* subgenus *Pygmaeia*. *Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard.* 82, 265–518.

Oses, L. 2017. *Filogenia molecular de las especies de Masdevallia Ruiz & Pav. (Orchidaceae) de Costa Rica* (tesis de Licenciatura). Ciudad Universitaria Rodrigo Facio, Costa Rica.



LCDP: *Masdevallia fulvescens* Rolfe. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Perianth. D. Petal adaxial view. E. Lip adaxial view. F. Column and Lip, lateral view. G. Column ventral views. H. Pollinarium and anther views.

