

# 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. 10803 (JBL-spirit; LCDP voucher).

*Plant* epiphytic, caespitose, erect to suberect, up to 12 cm tall. *Roots* whitish green to pale brown, smooth, to 1 mm in diameter. *Ramicauls* up to 15 mm long, enclosed by 2–3 tubular sheaths 5–15 mm long. *Leaves* the base gradually narrowed into the petiole, the blade smooth, coriaceous, oblanceolate to spatulate, from an aequilateral base, emarginated, inconspicuous apiculus, 7–10.5 cm long including the petiole, 1.0–1.5 mm wide, petiole 15–50 mm long. *Inflorescence* successive, with a single flower open at time; *peduncle* suberect, 5–7 cm long, bracts two; *floral bract* light green, tubular, 10 × 2 mm; *pedicel* light green, 11–13 mm long. *Ovary* terete, with 6 longitudinal grooves, 3–4 mm long. *Flowers* fleshy, the dorsal sepal whitish at the base, yellow tinged with faint purple in the center, the synsepal pale purple basally, white in the middle, turning yellow on each side, with four faint crimson grooves, from two purple blotches at the base that extend towards the apex, turning wider and more marked on the blade, the sepaline tails greenish yellow, the petals and the lip white, finely dotted with purple dots. *Dorsal sepal* obovate, 90 mm long including tail, 7 mm wide, connate 12 mm to the lateral sepals forming a sepaline tube, basally narrow, the free portion 80 mm long including the tail, apical tail to 70 mm long. *Lateral sepals* subrhombic, 88 mm long including the tails, connate 13 mm to form a lamina 17 mm wide when expanded, the free portion 75 mm long including the tail, each half basally deltoid, projecting into a fairly thin, descending, slightly twisted to 60 mm long and narrow apical tail. *Petals* ovate, oblique, unguiculate 5.3 × 2.6 mm, apically rounded with an additional apicule on the upper margin, the margin entire, thickened in the lower basal margin to form an inconspicuous callus. *Lip* articulate to the column foot, basally bluntly sagittate to subcordate, subpandurate, obtuse, 5 × 2 mm, with a low longitudinal, central callus. *Column* white dotted with purple, semiterete,

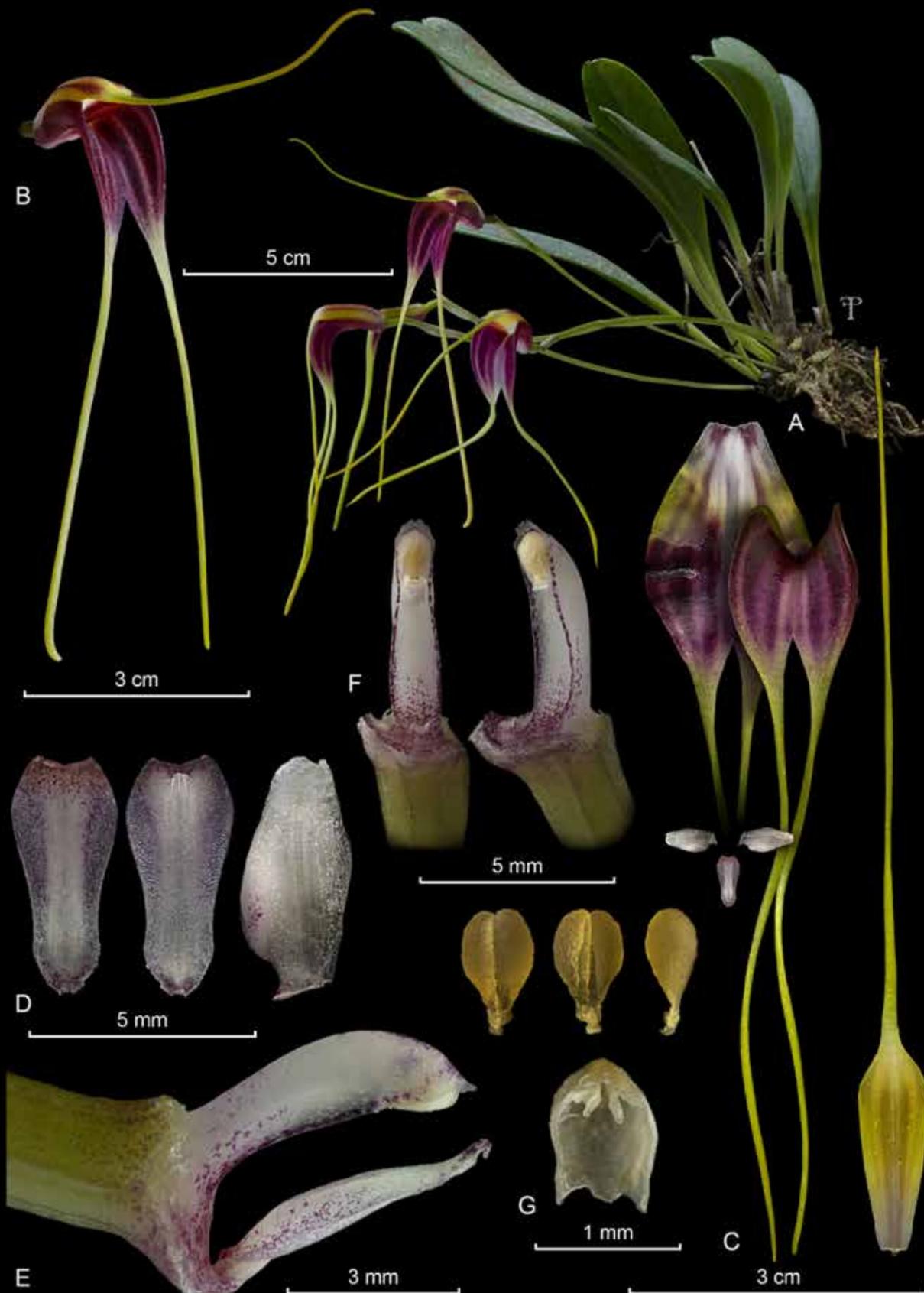
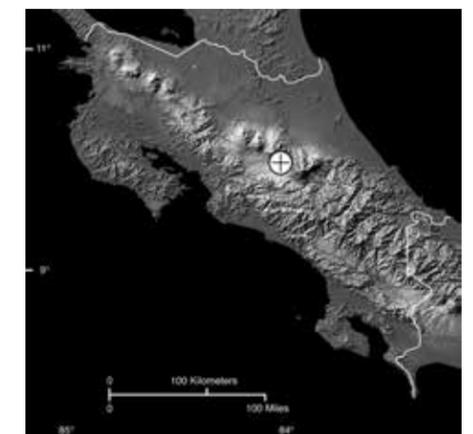
5 × 1 mm, column foot 2 mm long, the apex irregularly serrate. *Anther cap* white, cucullate. *Pollinia* two, yellow, ovoid, on a whale tail-shaped caudicle.

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

It is noteworthy that another plant from the same population (Bogarín 10823(a), also in this series), shows discrete differences at the intraspecific level. The length of the petiole of the current specimen is up to 3 cm longer. The dorsal sepal has a more yellow color pattern, with very weak purple channels, and a larger yellow and white area at the base of the lateral sepals. The lateral tails and the free portion of the sepaline tube are distinctly recurved.

## References

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



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

