

## ***MASDEVALLIA LUERORUM* (ORCHIDACEAE: PLEUROTHALLIDINAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM COSTA RICA**

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**ABSTRACT.** *Masdevallia luerorum* from the southern Pacific region of Costa Rica is described and illustrated. It resembles *M. lata*, but differs in the single flowered inflorescence, the shorter sepals, the broad and cylindrical sepaline tube, the smaller mentum beneath the column-foot, a smaller secondary mentum, a slight deflection between the two mentums, and the lip with marginal folds near the middle, apically rounded and conspicuously verrucose. Initial phylogenetic evidence indicated that *Masdevallia nicaraguae* is closely allied to *M. luerorum*. However, *M. nicaraguae* is distinguished by the white flowers suffused with fuchsia stripes toward the bases of sepals and the thick and triangular, shorter sepaline tails of the lateral sepals. Moreover, both species are isolated geographically.

**RESUMEN.** Se describe e ilustra *Masdevallia luerorum* del Pacífico sur de Costa Rica. Es similar a *M. lata*, pero difiere en la inflorescencia uniflora, los sépalos más cortos, el tubo sepalino amplio y cilíndrico un mentón más pequeño debajo del pie de la columna, un mentón secundario más corto, una ligera deflexión entre ambos mentones, y el labelo con pliegues marginales cerca de la mitad y apicalmente redondeado y conspicuamente verrucoso. Evidencia filogenética inicial indicó que *Masdevallia nicaraguae* está estrechamente relacionada con *M. luerorum*. Sin embargo, *M. nicaraguae* se distingue por las flores blancas con rayas fucsia hacia las bases de los sépalos y colas sepalinas triangulares, más cortas y gruesas. Además, ambas especies están aisladas geográficamente.

**KEY WORDS:** Epidendreae, Flora of Costa Rica, *Masdevallia lata*, *Masdevallia luerorum*, taxonomy

**Introduction.** *Masdevallia* Ruiz & Pav. is one of the most species-rich genera of subtribe Pleurothallidinae with an estimated of 600 species (Daslström & Ruiz Pérez 2015, WCSP 2017). The genus ranges from southern Mexico, Central America and northern Andes to Peru, Bolivia and southern Brazil. The highest concentration of species is found in Colombia (152 spp.), Ecuador (269 spp.) and Peru (197 spp.) (Ortiz-Valdivieso *et al.* 2016, WCSP 2017). About 42 species are found in Central America, mostly in Costa Rica and Panama. Costa Rica harbors 34 species and 12 of them are endemic (Luer 2003a, Smith *et al.* 2015, Oses Salas & Karremans 2016).

Luer (2003a) revised the genus for Costa Rica and clarified most of the taxonomic problems. However, some specimens collected for a taxonomic

reassessment of the genus in Costa Rica still cannot be assigned to any known species so far. Recently, Smith *et al.* (2015) and Oses Salas & Karremans (2016) added *M. jorge-warneri* (C.M.Sm., Bogarín & Pupulin) Bogarín and *M. utriculata* Luer respectively. However, other collections remained under study until a further understanding of the natural variation of populations allow us to distinguish among them. One of these unclassified collections correspond to a species of *Masdevallia*, which is restricted to the middle elevations of the southern Pacific region of Costa Rica, morphologically similar to *Masdevallia floribunda* Lindl., *M. lata* Rchb.f. and *M. ostarina* Luer & V.N.M. Rao. Here, we describe and illustrate this new species of *Masdevallia s.l.* following the broad circumscription of the genus (Luer 1986, 2000a,

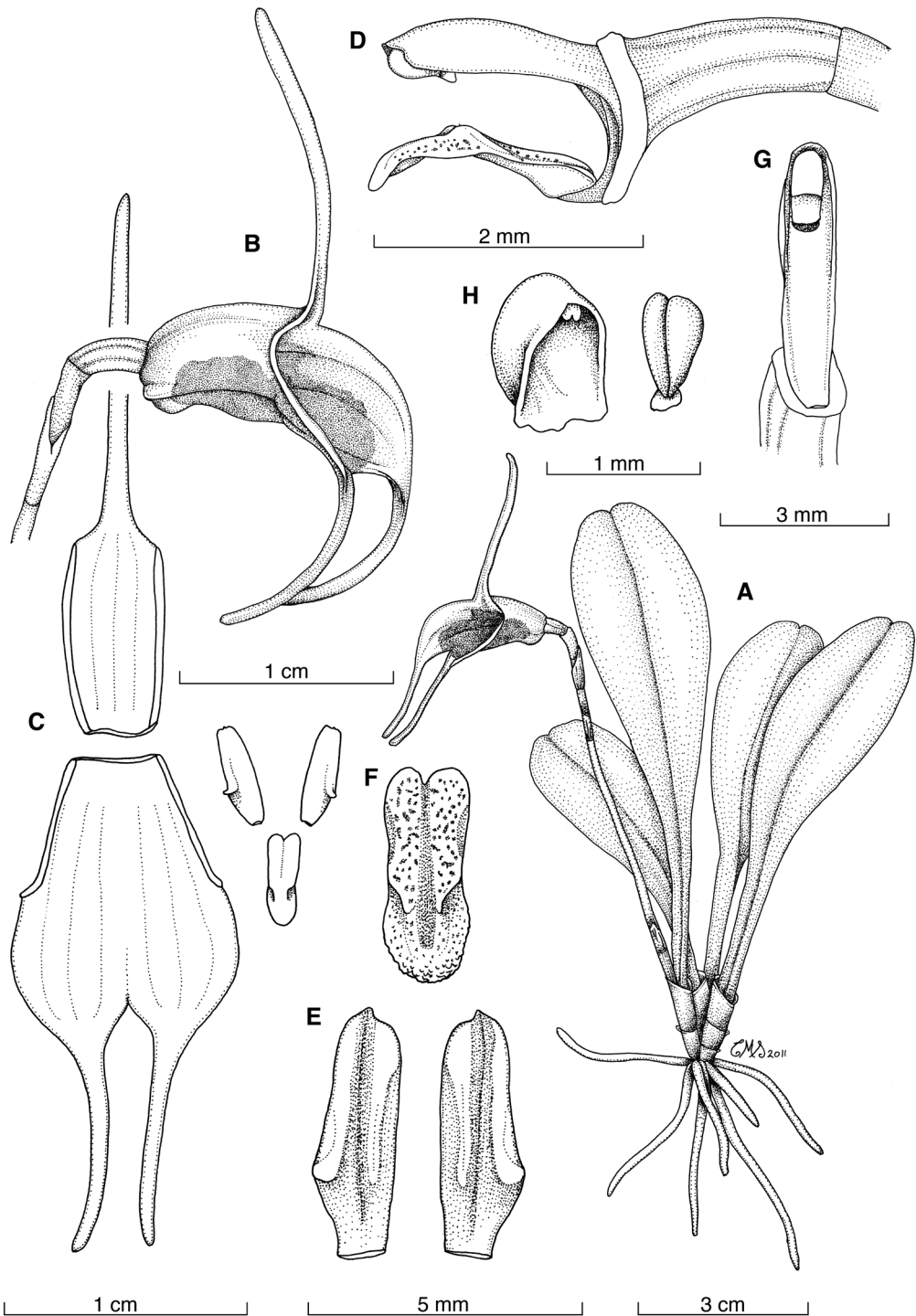


FIGURE 1. *Masdevallia luerorum* Bogarín, Oses & C.M.Sm. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Ovary, column and lip, lateral view. E. Petals. F. Lip, adaxial view. G. Column, adaxial view. H. Anther cap and pollinarium. Drawing by C. M. Smith from the holotype (CR).

2000b, 2001, 2002, 2003a, 2003b, 2006, Daslström & Ruiz Pérez 2015, Vieira-Uribe & Bogarín 2016).

#### TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

*Masdevallia luerorum* Bogarín, Oses & C.M.Sm., *sp. nov.*

TYPE: Costa Rica. San José: Pérez Zeledón, Pejibaye, 9°10'00"N 83°35'00"W, 500 m, premontane wet forest, collected by J. Cambronero, flowered in cultivation in Palmares de San Isidro de Pérez Zeledón, 28 July 2009, *D. Bogarín 7364* (holotype, CR; isotypes, JBL, USJ). Figs. 1, 2, 3, 6B.

*Species Masdevalliae latae* Rchb.f. *similis, sed inflorescentia uniflora, sepalibus brevioribus, tubo sepalino latoque cylindrico, mento infra pedem columnae parviore, mento secundario minore, deflectione inter mentos non profunda, plicis marginalibus partem medianam labelli approximantes, apice labelli rotundoque conspicue verrucoso differt.*

Epiphytic, caespitose, erect *herb*, up to 9 cm tall. *Roots* white, glabrous, flexuous, to 1 mm in diameter. *Ramicauls* almost indistinguishable, erect, up to 11 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, enclosed by 2–3 ribbed, tubular sheaths to 10 mm long. *Leaves* bright green, erect to suberect, coriaceous, obelliptic, obtuse, emarginate, with a short apiculus, 6–8 cm long including the petiole, 1–2 cm wide, the base gradually narrowed into the petiole ca. 1.5 cm long. *Inflorescence* apparently single flowered. *Peduncle* few spotted with brown, suberect, 4.5–7.0 cm long, with three tubular bracts, one near the pedicel and the other two below the middle. *Floral bract* tubular, 6 mm long. *Pedicel* 10 mm long. *Ovary* light green, 3–5 mm long, with 6 straight ribs. *Flowers* with yellow sepals, suffused with reddish-purple in the lamina of the lateral sepals, petals white, lip white dotted with purple and dark yellow at the apex, column white; the flowers do not produce perceptible fragrances. *Dorsal sepal* oblong, 22–30 mm long including the tail, 4 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for about 8–10 mm forming a cylindrical sepaline tube, the free portion about 15–20 mm long including the tail, basally subtriangular, abruptly contracted into a slender, erect, apical tail to 13–20 mm long. *Lateral sepals* obovate, oblique, 20–30 mm long including the tails, 9–15 mm wide

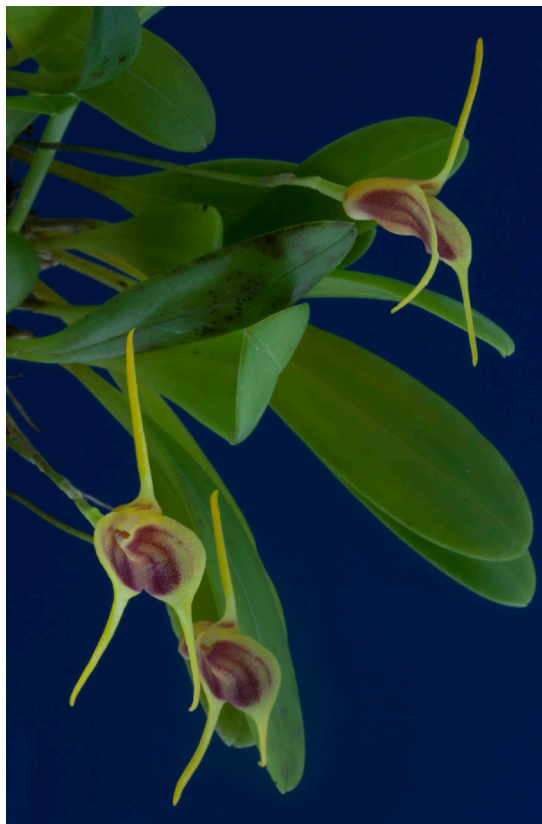


FIGURE 2. *Masdevallia luerorum*, from the plant that served as the type specimen, *D. Bogarín 7364*. Photograph by C.M. Smith.

expanded together, connate for about 6–10 mm to form a lamina, the free portion about 23–25 mm long, each basally subtriangular, gradually contracted into a slender, descending, apical tail to 8.5–13.5 mm long. *Petals* ovate, oblique, unguiculate, 4.5–5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex obtuse with a small apiculus, the labellar margin with a low, longitudinal callus ending in a short, pointed tooth between the middle and lower third of the petal. *Lip* oblong, convex, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, with marginal folds near the middle, the apex rounded, verrucose, the base subcordate, hinged beneath. *Column* semiterete, 4 mm long, 1 mm wide. *Foot* 2 mm long with a short, incurved extension. *Pollinia* two, ovoid. *Anther cap* cucullate.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from southern Pacific of Costa Rica along the Fila Costeña (Fig. 4).

HABITAT: Epiphytic in premontane wet forest at 500 m of elevation.

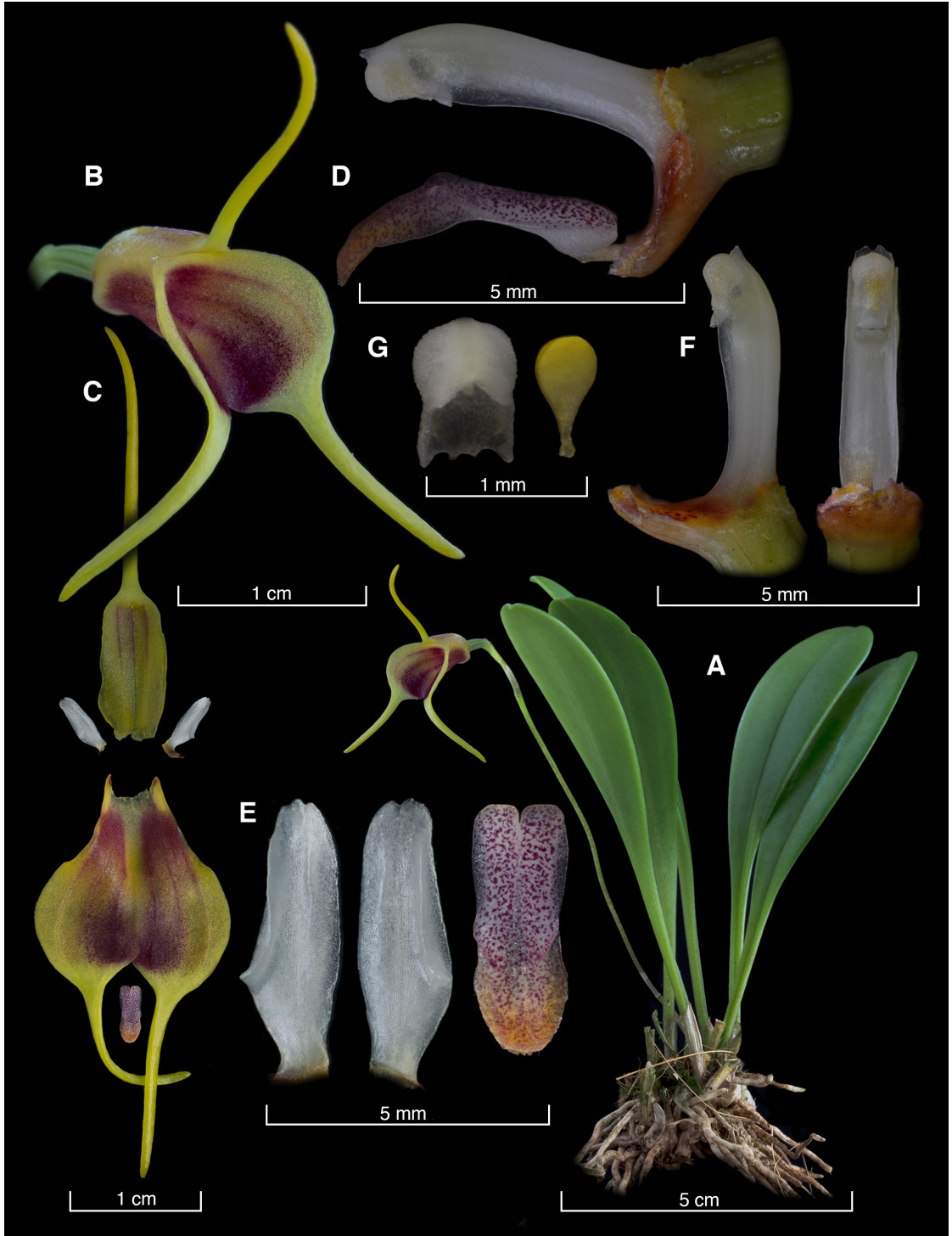


FIGURE 3. Lankester composite dissection plate (LCDP) of *Masdevallia luerorum*. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Column and lip, lateral view. E. Petals and lip, adaxial view. F. Column, lateral and adaxial view. G. Anther cap and pollinarium. Plate by D. Bogarín and L. Oses. Voucher at JBL.



PHENOLOGY: Plants bloom in July, September, and October.

EPONYMY: Dedicated to Jane and Carlyle A. Luer for their contributions to the taxonomy of Costa Rican *Masdevallia*.

*Masdevallia luerorum* can be distinguished from other Costa Rican species by its broad yellow sepals suffused with reddish-purple (Fig. 5). Morphologically, it resembles *Masdevallia lata* [= *Alaticaulia lata* (Rchb.f.) Luer] (Fig. 5D, 6). However, the sepals are longer in *M. lata* than in *M. luerorum* (dorsal sepal 30 mm vs. 38–68 mm, lateral sepals 28 mm vs. 34–65 mm). The color of the sepals is also distinct; there is much more yellow in the lateral sepals of *M. luerorum* and they are suffused with reddish-purple, while in *M. lata* the sepals are a much darker brownish-red, with yellow restricted to the dorsal sepal and the tails (Luer 2000). The synsepal of *M. lata* is laterally compressed whereas in *M. luerorum* it forms a cylindrical tube that expands to a more open lamina. *Masdevallia luerorum* has a small mentum beneath the column foot, a small secondary mentum and between the two mentums a slight deflection, whereas *M. lata* has a much larger mentum beneath the column foot and a larger secondary mentum and a very conspicuous deflection between the two menta (Luer 2000) (Fig. 5B, 5D). The two species also present differences in the lip. The marginal folds in *M. lata* are above the middle, whereas in *M. luerorum* they are below to the

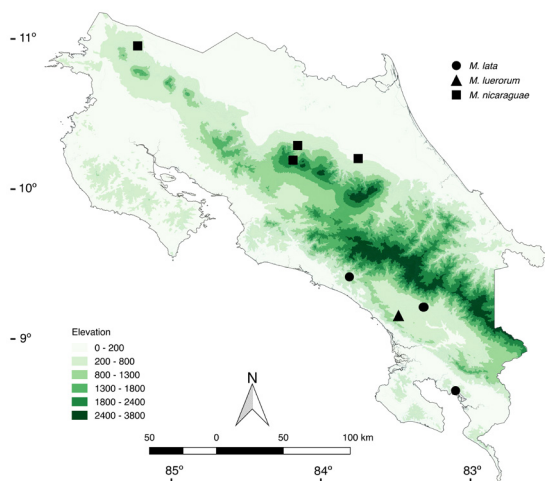


FIGURE 4. Distribution map of: *Masdevallia lata* (circles), *M. luerorum* (triangle) and *M. nicaraguae* (squares) in Costa Rica.

middle. Furthermore, in *M. lata* the lip is divided into a well-defined hypochile and epichile, whereas in *M. luerorum*, this division is less evident. The apex of the lip in *M. luerorum* is rounded and conspicuously verrucose versus an obtuse and minutely verrucose apex in *M. lata* (Luer 2000).

Both *M. lata* and *M. luerorum* are likely sympatric in the vicinity of the Fila Costeña in the southern Pacific of Costa Rica. *Masdevallia lata* extends from San Isidro de El General towards the south in the Península de Osa and Panama where *M. luerorum* is



FIGURE 5. *Masdevallia luerorum* Bogarín, Osés & C.M.Sm. and similar morphological species. A. *M. floribunda* (Bogarín 11335). B. *M. luerorum* (Bogarín 7364). C. *M. ostaurina* (Bogarín 5976). D. *M. lata* (Bogarín 2691). Photographs by D. Bogarín.

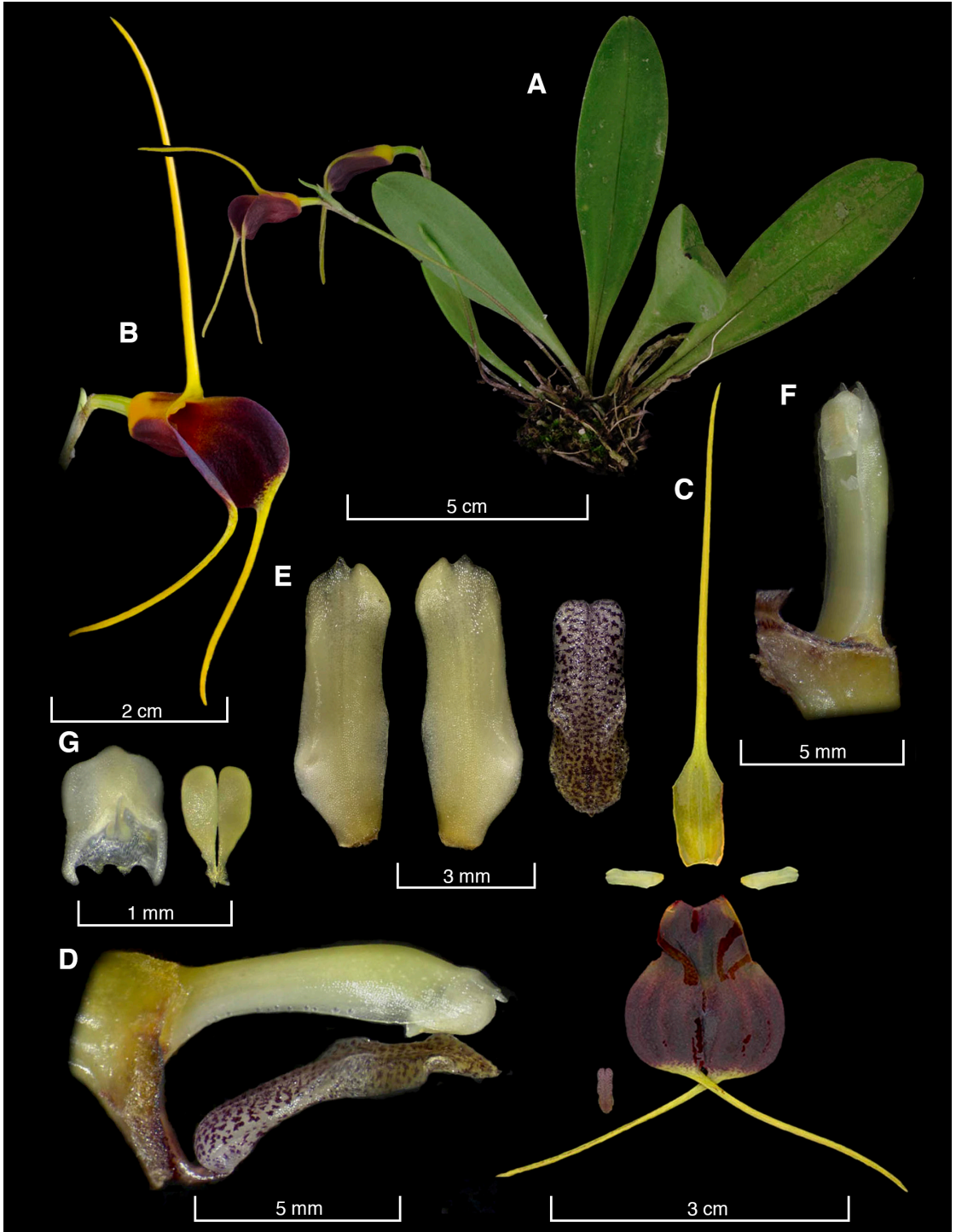


FIGURE 6. LCDP of *Masdevallia lata* Rehb.f. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Column and lip, lateral view. E. Petals and lip, adaxial view. F. Column, lateral (or  $\frac{3}{4}$ ) view. G. Pollinarium and anther cap. Plate by D. Bogarín & C.M. Smith based on *Bogarín 11335* (JBL).

absent. However, both species potentially overlap in the Cordillera Costeña (Fig. 4). The hypothesis that *M. luerorum* might represent a geographical variation of *M. lata* has been initially tested by performing phylogenetic analysis of Bayesian inference (BI) and maximum likelihood (ML) of the nuclear ribosomal internal transcribed spacers (nrITS) and the plastid maturase K (matK) datasets (Osés *et al.*, in prep.). Both analysis yielded the same topology and suggested that *M. luerorum* and *M. nicaraguae* Luer are closely related. The species were also grouped with *M. lata* and the Colombian *M. pescadoensis* Luer & R. Escobar into a clade with serially branching pattern. *Masdevallia lata* occupies a basal position (posterior probability for BI reconstruction =0.94), followed by *M. pescadoensis* (posterior probability=0.98 and bootstrap for ML=77) whereas *M. luerorum* and *M. nicaraguae* are grouped with strong support (posterior probability=1.0 and bootstrap for ML=93).

*Masdevallia nicaraguae* is distinguished from *Masdevallia floribunda* Lindl., *M. luerorum* and *M. lata* by the white flowers suffused with rose stripes toward the bases of sepals and the thick, triangular shorter sepaline tails of the lateral sepals (Luer 2003a, Karremans *et al.* 2012) (Fig. 7). In addition, *Masdevallia luerorum* and *M. nicaraguae* are geographically isolated. *Masdevallia nicaraguae* ranges in the Caribbean lowlands of northern Costa Rica and southern Nicaragua along the San Juan River and the lower slopes of Cordillera de Guanacaste and Tilarán whereas *M. luerorum* is restricted to the Pacific mid-elevation areas of Cordillera Costeña (Fig. 4).

*Masdevallia luerorum* has little resemblance with *Masdevallia floribunda* (Figs. 5A, 8) and *Masdevallia ostaurina* Luer & V.N.M. Rao (Fig. 5C), but differs in flower coloration; the sepals of *M. floribunda* and *M. ostaurina* are white to yellowish or pinkish and dotted with purple to varies degrees and purple-spotted peduncle. Moreover, *M. ostaurina* has a dark purple lip (vs. lip white dotted with purple) and *M. floribunda* has a column with a purple margin (vs. without purple margin) (Luer 2001, 2004). Also, *Masdevallia floribunda* lacks a secondary mentum and has a shorter sepaline tube with a more spreading lamina formed by the lateral sepals (Fig. 8). Furthermore, *M. floribunda* has a verrucose callus that protrudes both above and beneath lip close to the apex, which is absent in *M. luerorum*.

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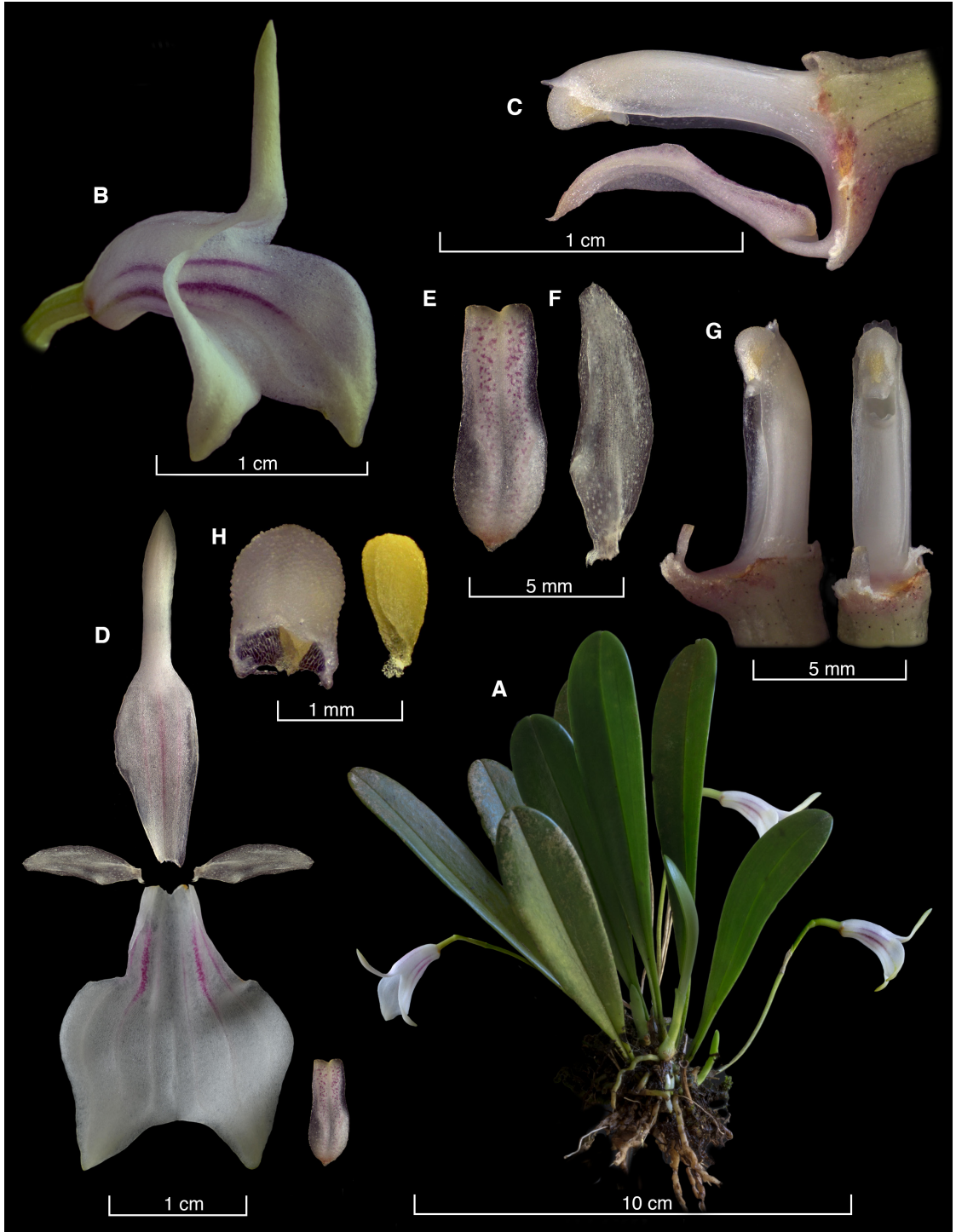
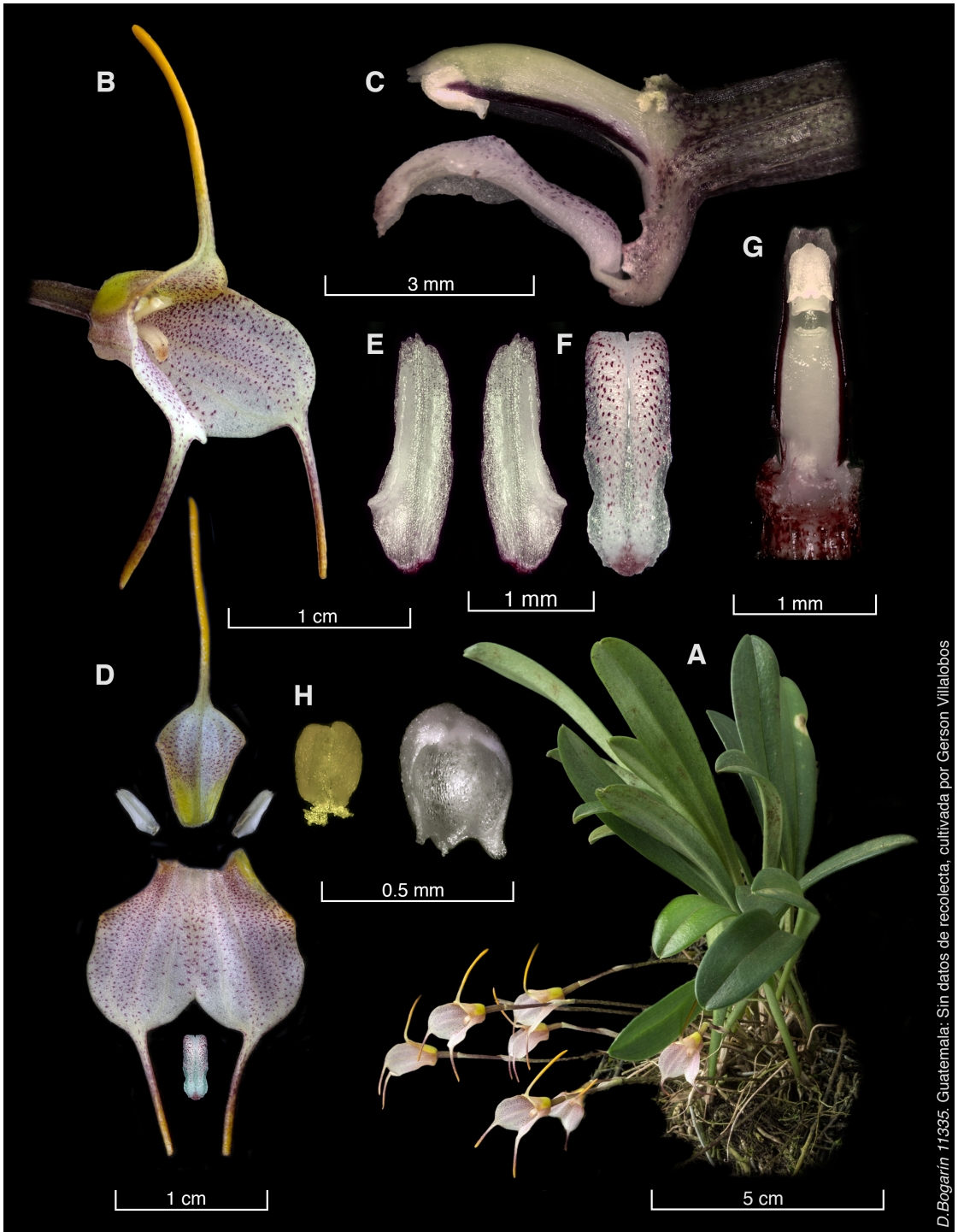


FIGURE 7. LDCP of *Masdevallia nicaraguae* Luer. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Ovary, column and lip, lateral view. D. Dissected perianth. E. Petal. F. Lip, adaxial view. G. Column, adaxial and lateral view. H. Pollinarium and anther cap. Plate by L. Oses based on *Karremans 6832* (JBL).





D. Bogarín 11335, Guatemala: Sin datos de recolección, cultivada por Gerson Villalobos

FIGURE 8. LCDP of *Masdevallia floribunda* Lindl. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Ovary, column and lip, lateral view. D. Dissected perianth. E. Petals. F. Lip, adaxial view. G. Column, adaxial view. H. Pollinarium and anther cap. Plate by D. Bogarín based on Bogarín 11335 (JBL).

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