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A new species of *Masdevallia*

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***Masdevallia doucetteana* sp. nov. Pfahl 2014**

DIAGNOSIS: The species is most similar to *M. nivea* (Luer & R. Escobar) Luer & R. Escobar but differs in the larger flower size and the dorsal sepal with a minutely fimbriate margin.

TYPE: Colombia: exact locality not recorded, Doucette s.n. [Holotype: WIS].

Bloom Times: Free flowering throughout the year

Common Name: Doucette's *Masdevallia* [American

Flower Size: 1.5"

Found in Colombia where it presumably grows as an epiphyte in cloud forests. The plants are miniature, caespitose herbs with obovate, petiolate leaves 4-7 cm long x 1.5-2.0 cm wide, and short stems, 1.0-2.0 cm long, enveloped by 2-3 loose papery sheaths. The single flowered inflorescences produce white flowers that are held horizontally from the plant. The peduncle is terete, 7.2 cm long x 0.2 cm wide. The pedicel is terete, 1.0 cm long x 0.2 cm wide. The ovary is sulcate, 0.7 cm long x 0.2 cm wide. The dorsal sepal is ovate, white becoming translucent towards the minutely fimbriate margins, suffused with golden-yellow towards the base, 1.5 cm long x 1.4 cm wide, and abruptly contracted into a yellow or green tail at the apex, 2.9 cm long. The lateral sepals are similar in morphology to the dorsal sepal but have entire to minutely erose margins, are slightly larger 1.8 cm long x 1.0 cm wide, and are contracted into a shorter tail 2.5 cm long. The petals, 0.4 cm long x 0.2 cm wide, and the lip, 0.4 cm long x 0.3 cm wide, and the column, 0.4 cm long x 0.15 cm wide, are typical for the subsection Caudatae.

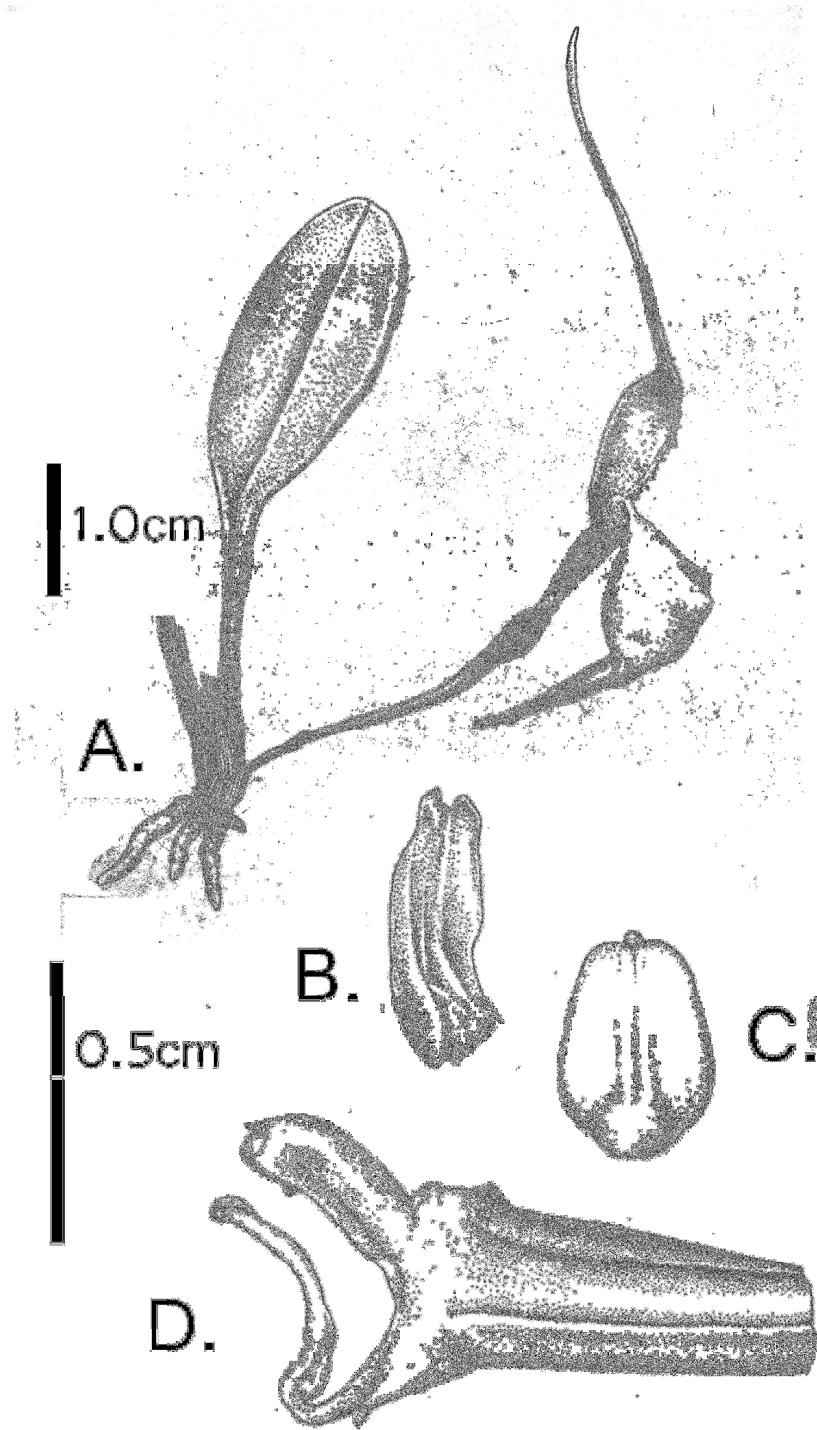
Additional specimens examined: Panama: Chiriqui, Cerro Punta. Gathered from material cultivated at Finca Dracula, purchased from Sócrates Forero by Andres Maduro and Alfonso Doucette, 12 August 2012, *Doucette* 3175 (PMA).

Etymology: It is my pleasure to name this species after Alfonso Doucette for his contributions to the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia (IOSPE) and the taxonomy of *Dracula* and *Masdevallia*.

This is a new species that has now been published April 9 2014 and is legal by new regulations with the **XVIII INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS, MELBOURNE, 18-22 JULY 2011.**



Figure A *Masdevallia doucetteana* Figure B *Masdevallia nivea*



Masdevallia doucetteana Pfahl: A. habitus, B. petal, C. lip, D. profile of column, ovary, and lip.