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Masdevallia amabilis Rchb. f. & Warsz. (Orchidaceae) an Addition to the Flora of Colombia.

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Abstract

Masdevallia amabilis Rchb. f. & Warsz. (Orchidaceae) a Peruvian species is reported for Colombia.

The genus *Masdevallia* Ruiz & Pav. consists of 644 species (WCSP, 2018) with Peru reporting 198 species and Colombia 164 species (WCSP, 2018). However, species are continuously being found of *Masdevallia* in Colombia originally reported for Ecuador or Peru. The actual count for Colombia will be well over 200 species of *Masdevallia*.

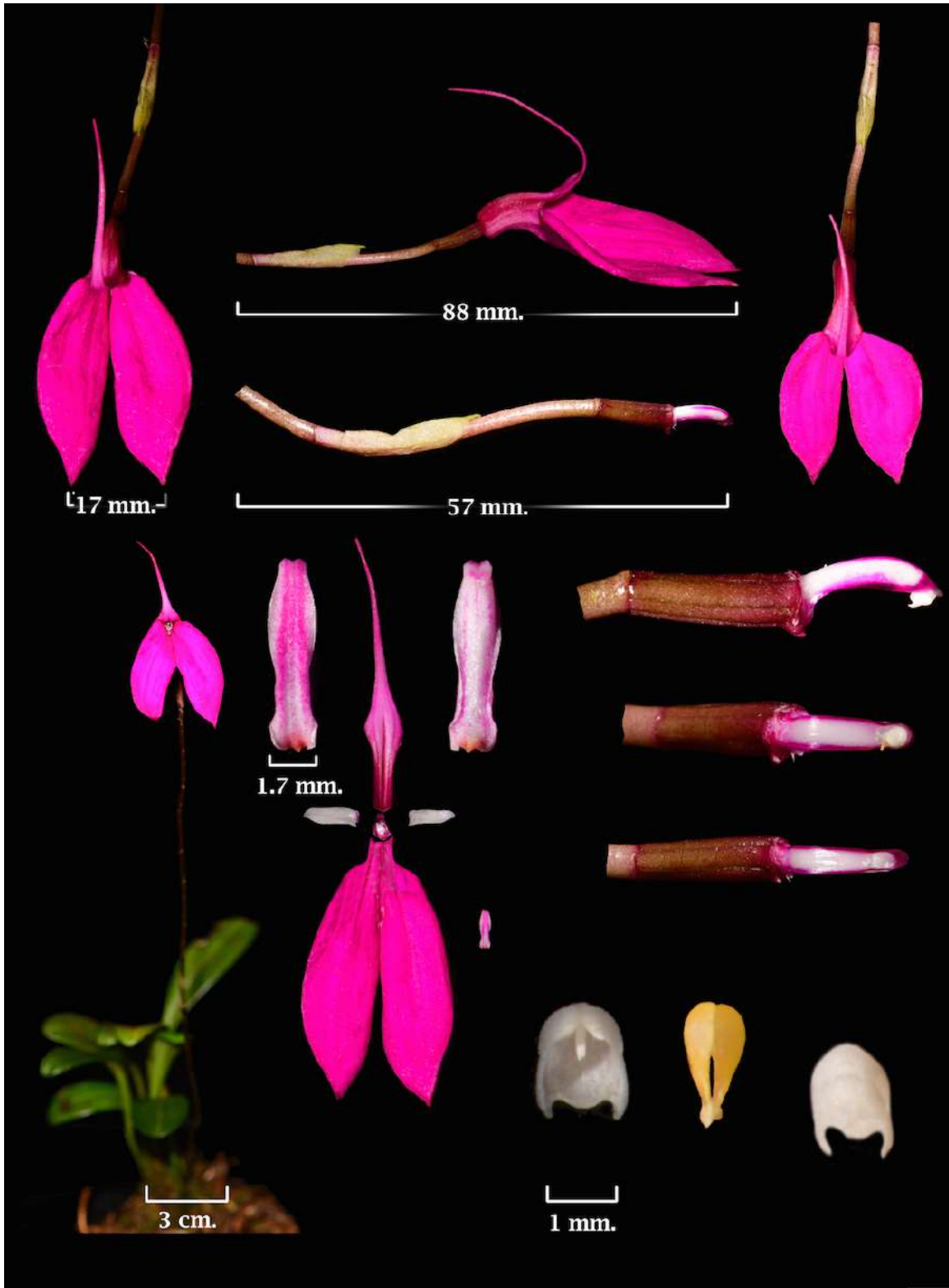
In Peru in the departments of Amazonas, Ancash, Cajamarca, Pasco and Piura *Masdevallia amabilis* Rchb. f. & Warsz. is common (Martinez *et al*, 2000). The population on the western slopes of the Cordillera Blanca has great variation in coloration including individuals with dark red, carmine, rose, orange and even yellow sepals (Martinez *et al*, 2000). A high degree of variation can be found in the shape of the flowers also, from flat flowers with short separated tails to elongated or very broad forms with dorsal tail recurved or bent backward, almost every possible combination of characters can be found (Martinez *et al*, 2000). Another population on the western slopes also exhibited plants with a high degree of variation, flowers ranging from carmine to yellow with fuchsia predominating (Martine *et al*, 2000).

Masdevallia amabilis was believed to be endemic to Peru however, a population was discovered in the department of Santander in the Paramo de Berlin. The predominate color of the sepals was fuchsia. An alba variation was also found in the population.

We here report *Masdevallia amabilis* for the flora of Colombia.

Masdevallia amabilis Rchb. f. & Warsz. Bonplandia 2(9): 116. 1854. (1 May 1854).

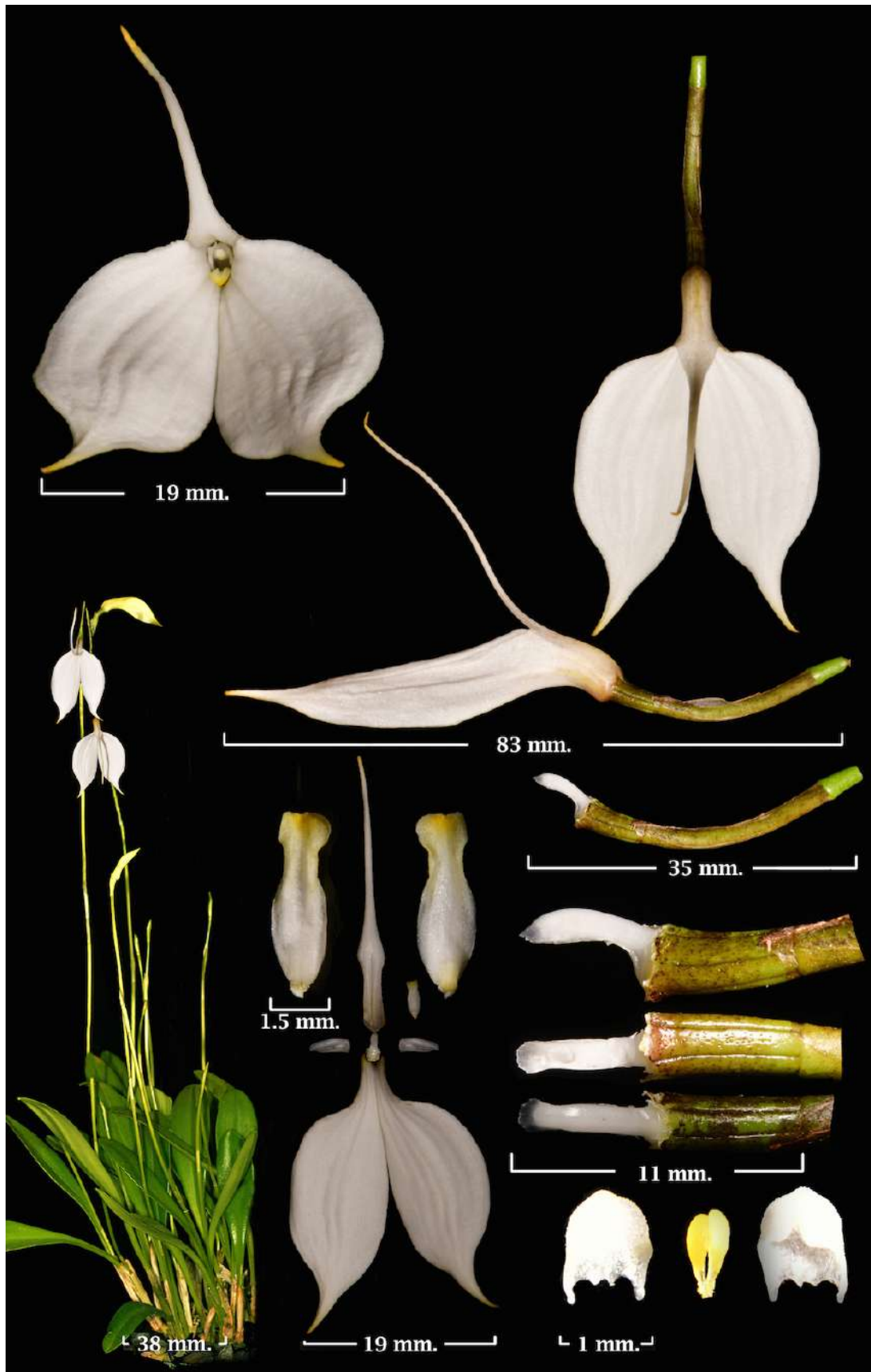
Voucher specimen: Colombia, Santander, Paramo de Berlin. Specimen made from cultivation, collector Jose Luis Aguirre Restrepo *s. n.*, 2019. (HPUJ).



Masdevallia amabilis Rchb. f. & Warsz. from Paramo de Berlin, Santander, Colombia.



Masdevallia amabilis Rchb. f. & Warsz. Paramo de Berlin, Santander, Colombia.



Masdevallia amabilis Rchb. f. & Warsz. alba form from Paramo de Berlin, Santander, Colombia.



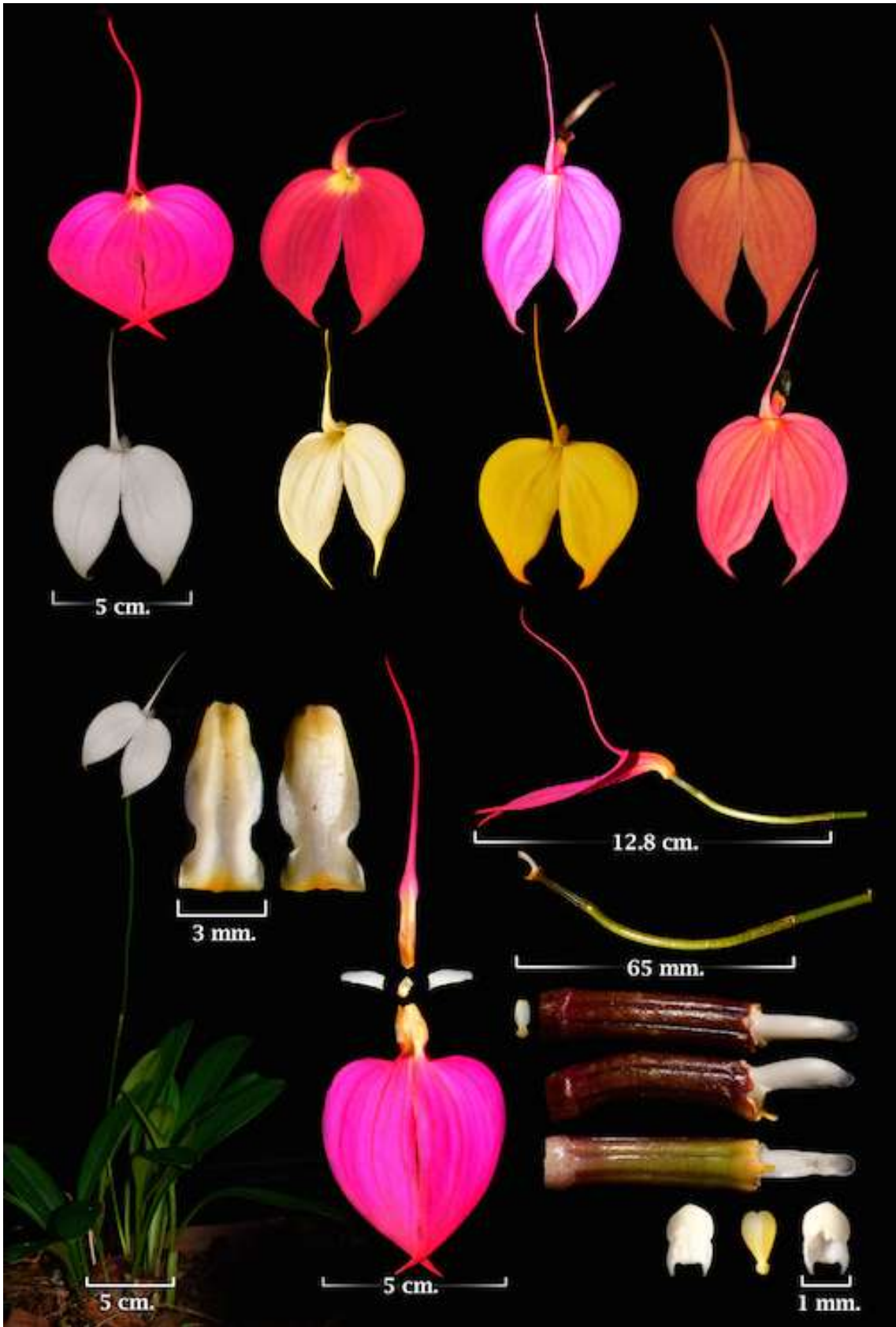
Masdevallia amabilis Rchb. f. & Warsz. from Paramo de Berlin, Santander, Colombia.



Masdevallia amabilis Rchb. f. & Warsz.



Masdevallia amabilis Rchb. f. & Warsz. From *The Genus Masdevallia*, F. H. Woolward, The Marquess of Lothian, K. T., Lyne & Son, 1896.



Variation in *Masdevallia coccinea* Lindl. from Boyaca, Sierra Nevada de Guican, Colombia.



Masdevallia coccinea Lindl. Xenia Orchidacea Vol. 1, plate 74. 1858.

Comparison of *Masdevallia amabilis* and *Masdevallia coccinea*



M. amabilis



M. coccinea

Labellum



M. amabilis



M. coccinea

Column



M. amabilis



M. coccinea

Dorsal Sepal



M. amabilis



M. coccinea

Petal



M. amabilis



M. coccinea

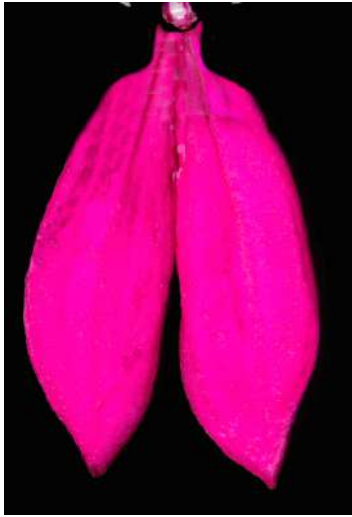
Anther - Pollinia



M. amabilis



M. coccinea



M. amabilis



M. coccinea



M. amabilis



M. coccinea

Masdevallia amabilis and *M. coccinea* are similar but differ in several significant characters. *Masdevallia amabilis* has a narrower but longer column than *M. coccinea*. The dorsal sepal in *M. amabilis* is broader and tends to reflex backward where in *M. coccinea* it is narrower and tends to incline forward. The apex of the lateral sepals in *M. coccinea* usually reflexes inward where in *M. amabilis* the apex either comes straight downward or reflexes outward. In addition, the two species differ in the shape of the labellum. The labellum of *M. amabilis* is narrowly elliptic, the labellum of *M. coccinea* is broadly elliptic.

Literature Cited

Martinez, M. L., B. Meza and C. H. Karajcar. 2000. Wawanku - Variation in the color and form of *Masdevallia amabilis*. *Orchids*, vol. 69: 2.

WCSP (2018). World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet.