

Dracula saulii Luer & Sijm, sp. nov.

Fig. 7.

Ety.: Named for Saul Ruiz Pérez of Lima Peru, who collected this species.

Inter species generis *Draculae*, habitus parvus uniflorus, foliis anguste linearibus, sepalis ovatis obtusis albis dense spiculatis longicaudatis, labelli epichilio concavo dense muricato distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3.5-4 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, carinate, narrowly linear, obtuse, 15-17 cm long including an indistinct petiole, 1 cm wide, narrowed below to the base. **Inflorescence** a single flower, borne by a horizontal peduncle, 10-11 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract tubular, 9-10 mm long; pedicel 10-17 mm long; ovary thick, 4 mm long, round in cross section with the ribs microscopically erose; **sepals** white, suffused with brown within along the margin of the cup, suffused with purple externally, diffusely spiculate within, the dorsal sepal transversely ovate, 10 mm long, 13-15 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 6 mm to form a broad, deep, sepaline cup, the apex rounded, abruptly contracted into a reflexed, slender, purplish tail 18-23 mm long, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, connate 10 mm into a 20-22 mm wide, broad lamina with a broad, rounded mentum, the apices broadly obtuse, contracted into slender, purplish tails 35-52 mm long; **petals** purple, cartilaginous, oblong, 2.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex bivalvate, densely spiculate between the laminae, the inner lamina subacute, denticulate, the outer lamina rounded; **lip** white, thickly pandurate, 6 mm long, 4.25 mm wide, the epichile transversely reniform, concave, 3 mm long, 4.25 mm wide, filled with irregular, large to small spicules, asymmetrically arranged, the hypochile ovoid, minutely and sparsely spiculate 2.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, deeply cleft centrally, with thickened margins that continue into irregular, papilliform spiculate processes the overhang the epichile, the margins broadly rounded, the base decurved, concave, hinged to the column-foot; **column** white, stout, semiterete, 3 mm long, denticulate at the tip, with a stout foot 3 mm long.

PERU: collected by Saul Ruiz, obtained from Manuel Arias, cultivated at Orchideeënwerkerij, Venhuizen, the Netherlands, flowered in cultivation, Oct. 2005, *Ton Sijm 250925* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illust. 20980.

Among the species of *Dracula* Luer, this species is distinguished by its small size and narrowly linear, obtuse leaves one centimeter wide. The peduncle bears a single, cupped flower with obtuse, more or less recurved sepals. Within, the sepals are white and covered above the middle by a dense field of spicules. Most unusual is the tail of the dorsal sepal that is twice to thrice shorter than the tails of the lateral sepals. The purple petals seem to peek out like a pair of eyes. The lip is small but remarkable for the asymmetrically arranged, numerous, fleshy spicules of various sizes that fill the hypochile below a similarly asymmetrical, spiculate, overhanging margin of the hypochile.

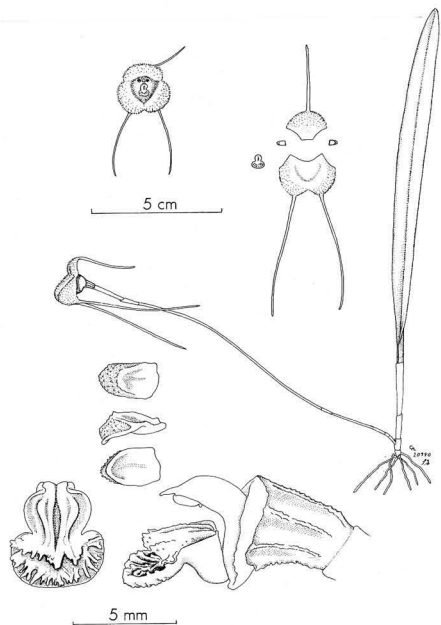


Fig. 7. *Dracula saulii*