

Masdevallia deltoidea Luer, sp. nov.

Haec species *M. velutinae* Rchb. f. affinis, sed statura minore, pedunculo unifloro, ovario cristato, flore plus minusve complanato subtriangulari ochroleuco dense pubescenti brevicaudato, petalis apice papillosis et labello spatulato epichilio transverse elliptico plurilamellato distinguitur.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems channeled, 3-5.5 cm long, enclosed by a loose, tubular sheath and another 1-2 at the base, unifoliate. Leaf erect, thinly coriaceous, narrowly obovate to narrowly elliptical, 12-17 cm long, 2-2.5 cm wide, carinate on the back, subacute to obtuse at the apex, narrowed gradually to the subpetiolate base. Inflorescence single-flowered, on a descending peduncle 8-10 cm long, with 5-8 bracts, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract thin, 8-9 mm long; pedicel purple, 10 mm long; ovary red-purple, 4 mm long, 3 mm wide, with 6 fringed crests; sepals widely spread, more or less flat, glabrous externally, copiously pubescent within, light orange-brown to nearly white, the acute apices acuminate into orange-brown, filiform tails 6-15 mm long, the dorsal sepal triangular, united to the lateral sepals for 3 mm, 10-12 mm long, 8-11 mm wide, the lateral sepals ovate-triangular, connate for 8-9 mm, forming a shallow mentum below the column-foot, 10-12 mm long, 10-12 mm wide; petals oblong, slightly dilated near the middle, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, yellow with light brown spots, the subacute apex papillose, obscurely bivalved; lip fleshy, spatulate, orange-brown, 5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, the hypochile 3 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, deflexed, with rounded, erect, lateral margins, cleft centrally, the base concave and hinged to the column-foot, the epichilum transversely elliptical, 2 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, very shallowly concave to flat, with several radiating carinae to the minimally undulate margin; column yellow, stout, 4 mm long, with a foot 3 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *deltoideus*, "deltoid or triangular," in reference to the shape of the flower.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: epiphytic between Loja and Zamora, alt. 2800 m, B. Malo s.n., cultivated near Cuenca, flowered in cult. 16 July 1977, C. Luer 1713 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Ecuador.

This small species may be recognized by the triangular appearance of the solitary flower. Each sepal being slightly convex, the flower is more or less flat and lacking a sepaline cup. The face of the flower is ivory suffused with pale orange-brown, and the widely spread, slender tails are orange-brown. The ovary is comparatively thick with six crested wings.