

Masdevallia andreettae Luer, sp. nov.

Habitu *M. chimaerae* Rchb. f. et affinibus similis, sed floribus differt. Sepala flavescencia atropurpureo maculata intus papillosa extus glabra undulata caudis filiformibus, sepalum dorsale transverse cordatum, synsepalum gibbosum, petala linearia curvata apice claviformia verrucosa base dilatata lamellata serrata papillosa, hypochilium labelli concavum, epichilium multi-majus transverse ovatum valde convexum rugosum.

Plant medium to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems stout, channeled, 3-4.5 cm long, clothed by 2-3 loose, dry sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, tridenticulate at the subacute apex, gradually narrowed and conduplicate below the middle, subpetiolate, 17-25 cm long, 2.5-3.5 cm wide. Inflorescence a few-flowered (3-4) raceme of successive, widely spread, horizontally dependent flowers, produced on a descending peduncle, 15-20 cm long, green, flecked with white, from low on the secondary stem; floral bract 1-2 cm long; pedicel olive-green, 2 cm long; ovary purple, subverrucose, 11-12 mm long, 7 mm broad; sepals yellowish, heavily spotted with dark purple, minutely papillose within, glabrous without, the dorsal sepal transversely cordate, united to the lateral sepals for 5 mm, the free margins undulate, the apex attenuated into a filiform tail 5 cm long, total length 70 mm, width 22 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, united for 15 mm to form a narrow mentum, the apices produced into tails similar to the dorsal sepal, total length 75 mm, 33 mm wide together; petals white spotted with purple, cartilaginous, linear, curved, the apex clavellate, rounded, convex, tuberculose, with more or less serrate margins, dilated toward the base, the inner surface with a serrate plate and papillose along the labellar margin, 11 mm long, 3 mm wide; lip acutely deflexed at the junction of the hypochile with the epichile, the hypochile concave, yellow, about 5 mm long, 5 mm wide, loosely hinged to the column-foot, the epichile white, suffused with rose, transversely ovate, obtuse, strongly convex, deeply rugose, 12 mm wide, 7 mm long unspread; column pale yellow, spotted with purple, stout, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, with an equally long foot.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Padre Angel Andreetta of Cuenca, Ecuador, who discovered this species.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: *CARCHI*: western declivity of the Andes, alt. 1500-2000 m, Oct. 1975, A. Andreetta & A. Hirtz 1, cultivated at Cuenca, flowered in cult. 12 July 1977, *C. Luer 1687* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Northern Ecuador.

Vegetatively this distinct species is similar to the numerous species closely related to *Masdevallia chimaera* Rchb. f. The large flower is similarly borne on a descending peduncle to face downwards with the outstretched sepals with tails paralleling the horizon. The clubbed petals protrude conspicuously from the center of the flower like the pair of stalked eyes of a snail. The dangling lip presenting its convex, furrowed surface below, resembles very much the gills of a mushroom.