

*Masdevallia ayabacana* Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris ad grandis caespitosa, caulibus secundariis crassis abbreviatis unifoliatis, foliis tenuibus coriaceis anguste obovatis obtusis sensim petiolatis, pedunculo tereti longo declinato, racemo contracto paucifloro, floribus successivis carnosus purpureis intus glandulo-papillosis caudis gracilibus virescentibus sepalis longioribus, cupula sepalorum profunde gibbosa, petalis crassis subquadratis truncatis subtridentatis purpureo-punctatis, labello carnosus oblongo-elliptico apice obtuso verrucoso purpureo-punctato.

Plant medium to large, presumably epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems stout, to about 2 cm long, with 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf erect, thin, coriaceous, dull green, narrowly obovate, 10-23 cm long, 26-33 mm wide, obtuse, gradually narrowed into a channeled petiole. Inflorescence a contracted, few-flowered (3-5) raceme of successive flowers, the peduncle terete, purplish, prostrate to declining, 25-34 cm long, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract thin, oblique, 1.5 cm long; pedicel thick, about 1 cm long; ovary about 11 mm long; sepals fleshy, red-purple with slender, yellow to green tails 5-6 cm long, glandular-papular within, the dorsal sepal subtriangular, united to the lateral

sepals for 8-9 mm, total length 75 mm, 15 mm wide, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, connate for about 17 mm into a concave, gibbous synsepal, forming with the dorsal sepal a deep sepaline cup, total length 76 mm, 34 mm wide together; petals very thick, cream with purple spots, subquadrate, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide; contracted toward the base, truncate and bluntly subtridentate at the apex, slightly grooved centrally; lip thick, orange spotted with purple, oblong-elliptical, 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, shallowly channeled, verrucose at the obtuse apex with a thick tuberosity beneath, the base retuse, hinged beneath; column stout, 4 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the region where the species was discovered.

TYPE: *PERU*: PIURA: near Ayabaca, R. Stumpfle s.n., cultivated by J & L Orchids, at Easton, Ct., and T. Vigliotti, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., flowered in cult. 28 Aug. 1976, *C. Luer* 2269 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Peru.

This distinctive species is remarkable in the long, declining, terete peduncle with successive flowers. The large, long-tailed, fleshy flowers are papular-pubescent within; the thick, unguiculate, rectangular petals are truncate and broadly tridentate; the obtuse apex of the thick, oblong lip is verrucose.