

*Masdevallia amaluzae* Luer & Malo, sp. nov.

Planta parvula epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis brevibus, foliis coriaceis ellipticis petiolatis, pedunculo gracili tereti plus minusve horizontali, racemo paucifloro, flore parvo solitario successivo ochraceo brunneo vittato, tubo sepalorum brevi caudis filiformibus, sepalis lateralibus in laminam plus minusve planam bifurcatam connatis, petalis subfalcatis acutis, labello anguste ligulato subacuto base crasso marginibus basalibus elevatis rotundatis.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 8-10 mm long, lightly channeled, enclosed by a thin, loose, white sheath, unifoliate. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, petiolate, 3.5-5.5 cm long including the petiole, 9-11 mm wide, acute to subacute at the apex, tridenticulate, the base cuneate into the channeled petiole 1-2 cm long. Inflorescence a few-flowered (1-3) contracted raceme of successive flowers borne by an ascending or reclining to horizontal, slender peduncle 4-5 cm long, with a bract below the middle, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract tubular, 4 mm long; pedicel 6 mm long; ovary 3-4 mm long, with low, irregular carinae; sepals yellowish with brown veins, the veins more or less prominent externally, the dorsal sepal obovate, connate to the lateral sepals for 5 mm into a short, cylindrical tube, the free portion narrowly triangular, 3-veined, acuminate into a slender, terete tail, the total length 30-35 mm, width 5 mm, the lateral sepals connate 12 mm into an oblong, bifurcated, 6-veined lamina, cellular-glandular, the free portions triangular, the acute apices acuminate into slender tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal, the total length 30-37 mm, 7-8 mm broad together; petals translucent white with a purple midvein, subfalcate, 3.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apex acute, the base oblique and unguiculate below a swollen, broadly obtuse angle below the middle of the labellar margin; lip white with 3 red veins down the center, oblong-ligulate, 5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, subacute at the apex, the base thickened, rounded, retuse, with elevated, rounded margins, hinged beneath, the disc with a low, longitudinal pair of slightly irregular calli; column green, stout, 3 mm long, with a curved foot 2 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the region of Amaluza in the Province of Azuay, Ecuador, where the species was discovered.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: AZUAY: epiphytic near Amaluza, alt. 2000 m, May 1973, B. Malo 51, cultivated near Cuenca, flowered in cult. 8 July 1977, C. Luer 1655 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

This delicate, little species may be recognized by the slender, yellowish flowers prominently striped in brown with thin tails, borne successively by a slender, more or less horizontal peduncle. The sepals are connate into a short tube, the lateral sepals connate twice longer into a more or less flat, bifid lamina. The petals are subfalcate and acute, and the ligulate lip is narrow with three red stripes.