

Masdevallia ampullacea Luer & Andreetta, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, pedunculo foliis brevior, flore solitario tubuloso ventricoso intus pubescenti albido flavo-suffuso caudis aureis, petalis oblongis carinatis, labello tricolorato oblongo marginibus revolutis prope medium angulatis.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, blackish, unifoliate, 10-23 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 close, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, shortly petiolate, 4-10 cm long including the 1-3 cm long petiole, 1.5-2 cm wide, the subacute apex tridenticulate, the base narrowly cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a solitary flower borne more or less transversely by a slender, suberect peduncle 3-4 cm long, with a bract near the base, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract tubular, 5-9 mm long; pedicel 8-13 mm long; ovary 4-6 mm long, green; sepals white to light yellow, suffused and veined in yellow to orange, connate into a ventricose tube, the dorsal sepal connate 15-18 mm, the blade 23 mm long, 10-11 mm wide at the widest, pubescent within above the middle, the free portion suborbicular, the rounded apex produced abruptly into an orange, erect, filiform tail ca. 3.5 cm long, the lateral sepals connate 18 mm into a ventricose lamina 21 mm long, 13-15 mm wide above the sepaline tube, pubescent within above the middle, the free portions broadly ovate, the obtuse apices produced into spreading tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; petals yellow-orange, oblong, 7 mm long, 2.5-3 mm wide, the subtruncate apex more or less twisted with cellular erose margins, with a longitudinal carina above the lower margin ending in an obtuse angle above the base; lip oblong-ligulate, 6 mm long, 2 mm wide, with acute lateral angles near the middle formed by revolute margins, the rounded apex orange, purple around the angled middle, the truncate base white, hinged beneath; column white with purple margins, semiterete, 6 mm long, the foot 3 mm long with a short extension.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin ampulla, "a flask or bottle," in allusion to the shape of the sepaline tube.

TYPE: ECUADOR: MORONA-SANTIAGO: epiphytic in cloud forest near Bomboiza, alt. 1500 m, A. Andreetta 16, cultivated in Cuenca, flowered in cult. 18 Aug. 1978, C. Luer 3319 (Holotype: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Ecuador.

This species is most similar to the Peruvian M. fuchsii Luer. Both are characterized by the yellowish sepaline tubes, but the former is distinguished by the much longer sepaline tails and a narrower lip sharply angled near the middle.