

*Masdevallia chasei* Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec *M. calurae* Rchb. f. affinis sed foliis angustioribus, pedunculo unifloro (interdum bifloro), floribus alboflavescentibus minoribus caudis brevioribus, petalis secus marginem inferiorem incrassatis et labello bilamellato distinguitur.

Plant medium-sized, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, unifoliate, 2-3 cm long, enclosed by a loose tubular sheath and another 1-2 at the base. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, long-petiolate, 10-13 cm long including the 3-5 cm long petiole, 1.1-1.4 cm wide, the subacute apex tridenticulate, gradually narrowed below into the slender petiole. Inflorescence a solitary flower, occasionally followed by a second flower, produced by a suberect, slender peduncle 5-8 cm long, with a short bract near the base, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract 10-12 mm long; pedicel 18-20 mm long; ovary 5-6 mm long; dorsal sepal yellowish white, veined in purple toward the base, oblong, 17 mm long, 7 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 15 mm to form a curved cylindrical tube, the free portion transversely triangular, the apex contracted into a slender, yellow, forwardly directed tail; lateral sepals connate 18 mm into an elliptical, arcuate, bifid lamina 15 mm wide, the obtuse apices contracted into 8 mm long tails, the entire length of the lateral sepals 30 mm; petals dark rose, thick, oblong-elliptical, 4.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex obtusely angled, the labellar margin slightly dilated and thicker; lip rose, oblong-ligulate to slightly pandurate, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex thickened centrally, obtuse with microscopically erose margins, the disc with a short pair of rounded lamellae just above the middle, the base shallowly subcordate; column rose, semiterete, 4 mm long, with a stout foot 2 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Mark Chase of the University of Michigan, co-discoverer of this species.

TYPE: COSTA RICA: PUNTARENAS: epiphytic near Monteverde, alt. 1500-1700 m, 15 Aug. 1979, K. S. Walter & M. Chase 79306 (HOLOTYPE: SEL; ISOTYPE: CR), C. Luer illust. 4832.

DISTRIBUTION: Costa Rica.

This species is related to several of the well-known Costa Rican species, most closely allied to *M. calura*, but *M. chasei* may be distinguished by the narrower leaves; smaller, yellowish white, usually solitary, flowers; petals thickened along the labellar margin without a distinct carina; and the lip with a short pair of erect lamellae. From *M. marginella* Rchb. f. it may be distinguished by the narrow leaves longer than the inflorescences and the smaller flowers with a non-denticulate lip.