

Masdevallia eburnea Luer & Maduro, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *eburneus*, "of ivory," referring to the sepals.

Species haec *M. marginellae* Rchb.f. affinis, sed pedunculo longiore, floribus majoribus successivis, sepalis nitentibus pallidis roseo striatis et sepalis lateralibus latioribus caulibus recurvis differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fleshy. Ramicauls slender, erect, 2 cm long, enclosed by 2 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-obovate, obtuse, 12-14 cm long, 2.5 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into a petiole 3-4 cm long. **Inflorescence** a rapidly successive or nearly simultaneous, few-flowered raceme, the rachis ca. 1.5 cm between flowers, borne by a slender peduncle, round in cross section, 11-13 cm long, with a bract at the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, 12 mm long; pedicels 15 mm long; ovary 10 mm long; **sepals** fleshy, glabrous, shiny, ivory to light yellow-green, streaked with rose, the dorsal sepal oblong-obovate, 25 mm long, 11 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 20 mm to form a funnel-shaped, sepaline tube, the free portion broadly triangular, obtuse, contracted into an erect, stout, yellow-green tail ca. 4 cm long, the lateral sepals connate 20 mm into an obovate, arcuate synsepal, 25 mm long, 26 mm wide, 6-veined, convex centrally, with the apices obtuse, in near proximity, contracted into reflexed tails ca. 3 cm long; **petals** white, cartilagenous, ovate, 7.5 mm long, 3.5-4 mm wide, the apex obscurely lobed, the labellar half with a low, callus along the margin, ending in an obtuse angle between the basal and middle thirds; **lip** broadly oblong, 9 mm long, 4 mm wide, with a pair of low, longitudinal calli, obtusely angled near the middle, the apex rounded, minutely erose, the base subtruncate-cordate, shallowly cleft, hinged beneath; **column** semiterete, 6 mm long, the foot 5 mm long with a thick, incurved extension.

PANAMA: Chiriquí: alt. 1900-2000 m, collected by Erick Olmos, spring 2000, cultivated at Finca Dracula, Cerro Punta, spring 2001, *E. Olmos 157* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr 19926; cultivated in Highland Park, IL, Dec. 2002, by *J. Dixler s.n.* (MO).

This species of section *Reichenbachiana* from western Panama is most similar to the Costa Rican *M. marginella*. The sepals of the Panamanian *M. eburnea* are more deeply connate into a much broader tube. Although the sepaline tails of the simultaneously two-flowered *M. marginella* are sometimes more or less curved, the tails of the lateral sepals of *M. erickii* are curved 180°.

Masdevallia eburnea is characterized by a slender peduncle, nearly as long as the leaf, that bears in rapid succession a loose, few-flowered raceme, sometimes with two flowers open simultaneously. The flowers are shiny, pale yellow-green, streaked with rose, and produced about a centimeter and a half apart.

