

**Masdevallia guerrieroi** Luer & Andreetta, sp. nov.

Species haec *M. bicolore* Poepp. & Endl. similis sed caudis sepalorum omnibus tribus deflexis, petalis cum dente basali acuto deflexo et apice labelli acuto dignoscenda.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems stout, semiterete, 1.5-3 cm long, unifoliate, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, shortly petiolate, 9-12 cm long including the 1-2 cm long petiole, 2-2.5 cm wide, the obtuse apex tridenticulate, narrowly cuneate below into the petiolate base. Inflorescence a congested, successively few-flowered (2-3?) raceme borne by a suberect, triquetrous peduncle 12-13 cm long, subtended by a bract, from a node near the base of the secondary stem; floral bract oblique, tubular, acute, 12-15 mm long; pedicel 15 mm long; ovary light green, shiny, 5 mm long; sepals dull yellow-orange below the middle, suffused with dull purple above the middle with yellow tails, fleshy, rigid, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, 39 mm long, 8 mm wide, connate 12 mm to the lateral sepals to form a conical tube, the free portion narrowly triangular, gradually acuminate into the decurved tail, the lateral sepals 30 mm long, connate 14 mm to form a rigid, cymbiform synsepal ca. 1 cm wide unspread, with a shallow mentum above the smaller basal mentum below the column-foot, the apices approximate, acuminate into recurving, diverging tails ca. 1 cm long; petals white with lavender dots, oblong, 6.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the obtuse apex notched, with a sharp carina along the labellar margin ending in a narrow, acute, deflexed tooth 1 mm long; lip white dotted with purple, oblong-subpandurate, 6.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, with marginal folds just above the middle, the apical portion ovate, acute, with serrulate margins; column white, semiterete, 5 mm long, with a spotted foot 3 mm long, ending in an incurved extension.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Padre Antonio Guerriero of Bomboiza, Ecuador, co-discoverer of this species.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: MORONA-SANTIAGO: epiphytic in cloud forest along Río Kampanakentsa near Bomboiza, alt. 1000 m, collected by A. Andreetta & A. Guerriero 61, Oct. 1977, cultivated by A. Andreetta in Cuenca, flowered in cult. 21 Aug. 1978, *C. Luer* 3323 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Ecuador.

Although this triquetrous-stemmed species is related to the variable and widespread *Masdevallia bicolor*, the flower of *M. guerrieroi* is very distinct. The deep, more or less conical sepaline tube is ventricose below, and all three tails are deflexed. The lateral sepals form a rigid, boat-shaped synsepal with a bifid bow formed by the approximate apices with diverging tails.