

Masdevallia juan-albertoi Luer & Arias, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Juan Alberto Arias, son of Manuel Arias of Lima, Peru.

Inter species subsectionis *Masdevalliae*, habitu et flore grandibus, pedunculo folio longipetiolato brevior, sepalis bruneopunctatis in tubum campanuliformem cum mento connatis, petalorum callo crassissimo retrorso, labello grandi supra medium angustato apice recurvato distinguitur.

Plant large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots fleshy. Ramicauls stout, erect, 5-7 cm long, enclosed by a loose, tubular sheath and 2 others at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, long-petiolate, 13-14.5 cm long including the petiole 4-4.5 cm long, the blade elliptical, subacute, 2-3 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower borne by a peduncle 10-14 cm long, with a sheath above the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract 12 mm long; pedicel 18-19 mm long; ovary 7 mm long; **sepals** tan, diffusely dotted and suffused with brown, glabrous externally, shortly pubescent within above the middle, the dorsal sepal obovate, concave, 26 mm long, 23 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 14 mm into a gaping sepaline tube, the apex obtuse to rounded, contracted into a slender tail 3.5 cm long, the lateral sepals oblong, connate 12 mm into a broad synsepal, 25 mm long, 34 mm wide, 6-veined, with a deep

mentum below the column-foot, the apices obtuse, contracted into slender tails 3 cm long; **petals** cartilaginous, more or less oblong, obliquely obtuse at the apex, the labellar margin callous, ending in a thick, obtuse, retrorse process, 12 mm long, 5 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** suboblong, 14 mm long expanded, 6.5 mm wide, the apex broadly truncate with the acute tip acutely recurved, the disc featureless, the base truncate, thickened beneath and loosely hinged to the extension of the column-foot; **column** stout, 9 mm long, the foot equally long with an incurved extension, the anther and stigma ventral.

PERU: **Ayacucho**: Huanta, Chuyas, alt. 2300 m, collected by Silvano Flores, cultivated in Lima, Oct. 1999, by *M. Arias s.n.* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 19360.

Among the species of subsection *Masdevallia*, this species is another related to the variable *M. laevis*, which had been identified in *Thesaurus Masdevalliarum*-15 as *M. affinis*, one of its synonyms. *Masdevallia juan-albertoi* is distinguished by the large habit and large, brown-flecked flower with a prominent mentum. The petals are large with a thick, retrorse process at the base. The lip is also large with a constriction below the apex.