

MAY 26, 1877.]

MASDEVALLIA LATA, *Rchb. f.**

Among the plants of the late Mr. Zahn, one of the recent botanic martyrs (drowned in a stream), sent from Central America to Messrs. Veitch, was a curious *Masdevallia*, much in the way of *M. bicolor*, Pöpp., Endl., and *auropurpurea*, *Rchb. f.*, yet with some extra quality. It produces two flowers at once, and whether it may hereafter develope more such organs, who knows? To judge from the very thin peduncle one would, however, scarcely expect it. The flowers are dark reddish brown, with ochre-coloured tails, and such is too the colour of the upper sepal on a narrow line over the lateral sepals. The broad lateral sepals forming part of the tube are very concave of course, and at once most apparently rounded on their upper margin. Now, if they are artificially expanded, they form a very broad body over the entire tube, and this suggested the name "lata." My first knowledge of this plant was due to Messrs. Veitch, who introduced the plant I think at the same time with *M. attenuata*, *Rchb. f.* I obtained fresh flowers in September last from Mr. Day, and I saw the plant with its metallic shining flowers at this gentleman's Orchidic Eldorado a few weeks ago, before the days of Amsterdam, and carried home with me the beloved load of a two-flowered peduncle. *H. G. Rchb. f.*

* *Masdevallia lata*, *Rchb. f.*—Affinis *M. atropurpureæ*, *Rchb. f.*: foliis cuneato-oblongoligulatis acutis; pedunculo oligantho (uni—bifloro), mento angulato, tubo brevi inferna ante menti angulum deinceps angulato; sepalo impari pro parte libera brevi angusta triangulo in caudam longam extenso; sepalis inferioribus extus semirotundo expansis longe caudatis, caudis omnibus perigonium non caudale bene superantibus (prope bis longioribus); tepalis a cuneata basi panduratis apice bidentatis; media unilamellatis; labelli lamina ligulata antice utrinque angulata, angulis in laminam anticam, semioblongam denticulatam descendentes, superficie disci superioris denticulata; columna apice trifida, laciniis lateralibus obtusis, lacinia mediana acuta.—America Centralis; Zahn!