

Masdevallia maduroi Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Andrés Maduro of Panamá, collector and cultivator of this species.

Planta mediocris, pedunculo tenuissimo successivifloro arcuato pendenti, sepalis anguste caudatis in tubum brevem plus minusve depressum connatis, synsepalo rugoso ad medium anguste concavo, petalis alte lamellatis, labello magno infra ad medium cum extensione pedis columnae connexo distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots comparatively slender. Ramicauls erect, stout, 1.5-3 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, deciduous, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, 9-15 cm long including the petiole 2.5-3.5 cm long, the blade elliptical-obovate, obtuse, 2-3 cm wide, cuneate below into the stout, deeply channeled petiole. **Inflorescence** a successive, loosely few-flowered raceme, 0.5-2 cm between flowers, borne by a very slender, arching to pendent peduncle 15-17 cm long, with 2-3 distant bracts, from the base of a ramicaul; floral bract tubular 8-10 mm long; pedicel 7-9 mm long; ovary 8-10 mm long; **sepals** glabrous, the dorsal sepal forwardly directed, yellow-green, suffused with purple above the middle and along the veins, light orange toward the base, broadly ovate, 17 mm long, 16 mm wide, obtuse, contracted into a slender, yellow-green tail 4-5.5 cm long, connate to the lateral sepals for 7 mm into a somewhat flattened flower with a short sepaline cup, the lateral sepals purple, connate 23 mm into an ovate, deeply rugose, bifid lamina, 35 mm long, 25 mm wide, concave centrally, the apices acute, contracted into light green tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; **petals** white, cartilaginous, obliquely elliptical, narrowly truncate, 9 mm long, 4 mm wide, with a tall, erect lamella above the labellar margin, terminating above the base in an acute angle; **lip** yellow above the middle, tan below the middle, oblong-pandurate, narrowed near the middle, 10 mm long, 5 mm wide, the apex obtuse, minutely denticulate, the disc with a pair of oblique folds above the middle, shallowly concave below the middle, the base subcordate, hinged beneath nearly to the middle; **column** white, semiterete, 8 mm long, the foot 4 mm long, the free extension 3.5 mm long.

PANAMA: **Chiriquí**: "Fortuna," alt. 1200 m, collected and cultivated by Maduro's Tropical Flowers, flowered in cultivation at J & L Orchids, Easton CT, 16 Oct. 1998, *C. Luer 18932* (Holotype: MO).

This species of subsection *Polyanthae*, recently discovered in western Panama, is indeed different from all the others, but it is most similar to *M. thienii* Dodson. The extremely thin peduncle originates from the base of a ramicaul. The peduncle is about as long as the leaf, but because of the weight of the large, successive flowers, the raceme becomes pendent. The sepals are connate into a cup with the dorsal sepal held forward. The lateral sepals are connate into a deeply rugose synsepal with a central, conical concavity. A tall lamella is present on the petals above the lower margin. The lip is large with prominent, non-marginal folds at a constriction above the middle. Most unusual is the large callous base beneath that extends nearly to the middle, to which the extension of the column-foot is hinged.