

Masdevallia naranjapatae Luer, sp. nov.

Species haec *Masdevalliae zahlbruckneri* Krzl. persimilis, sed caudis sepalorum filiformibus multilongioribus et petalis angustioribus apicibus obliquis acutis cum callo angusto et dente basali acuto differt.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems slender, 1-1.5 cm long, unifoliate, concealed by 2-3 short, tubular sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, narrowly obovate, indistinctly petiolate, 5-12 cm long, 1.2-1.8 cm wide, the subacute apex tridenticulate, gradually narrowed below to the slender base. Inflorescence a successively few-flowered, congested raceme borne by a slender horizontal to descending peduncle 5-8 cm long, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract tubular, close, transparent, 4 mm long; pedicel light green speckled with purple, 11 mm long; ovary yellow, suffused and dotted with purple, 5 mm long; dorsal sepal yellow, lightly spotted with purple, microscopically pubescent above the middle, obovate, 10 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 5 mm to form a cylindrical tube, the free portion triangular, the apex acuminate into a filiform, reflexed tail 3-4 cm long; lateral sepals connate 20 mm into a narrowly ovate, bifid lamina,

covered with minute purple verrucae, microscopically pubescent, the apices attenuated into slender, recurving tails, the total length 4-5 cm, 1 cm wide across the synsepal spread out; petals white, strongly marked with purple along the labellar margin, variably marked with purple near the upper margin, oblong, 6 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex oblique, acute, shortly bifid, obtusely angled on the upper margin above the narrow, unguiculate base, with a longitudinal callus along the lower margin ending in an acute, retrorse tooth above the base; lip white, speckled with purple, oblong-subpandurate, 5.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex subacute, the base subcordate, hinged to the column-foot; column white marked with purple, semiterete, the foot 2 mm long with a minute, incurved extension.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the tiny community of Naranjapata where this species occurs.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: CHIMBORAZO: epiphytic near Naranjapata, km 100 along the railroad from Guayaquil to Quito, alt. 550 m, June 1977, W. Teague s.n., cultivated in San Francisco, California, flowered in cult. 23 Sept. 1978, *C. Luer 3448* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: western central Ecuador.

Apparently isolated in a lowland valley of western central Ecuador, this species is very closely allied to *Masdevallia zahlbruckneri* from Costa Rica, Panama, and northwestern Colombia. The habit and flower parts of the two species are extremely similar, although the flowers of *M. naranjapatae* may be immediately distinguished by the long, slender, sepaline tails. The latter, however, are subject to variation. The broad, obtuse petal of *M. zahlbruckneri* is very characteristic with a broadly elliptical, red-purple callus and a blunt, basal tooth. The petal of *M. naranjapatae* is obliquely acute with a narrow callus ending in a sharp, basal tooth. The lip of the latter may be considered more acute, but otherwise the lips of the two species are very similar.

The variability of the color and dimensions of the sepals within the population of *M. naranjapatae* (at that time tentatively identified as *M. aequatorialis* Krzl.) from the same and only known locality was the subject of a portion of a doctoral dissertation by Calaway Dodson in 1959, submitted to the faculty of Claremont Colleges, California.