

Masdevallia ostarina Luer & V.N.M. Rao, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *os*, "the mouth," and *taurinus*, "of bulls," in allusion to the Panamanian province Bocas del Toro where the species was collected.

Inter species *Masdevallia* Sect. *Minutae*, planta grandis, foliis carnosis obovatis, pedunculo erecto folio paulo breviorē; sepalis in tubum cylindricum connatis cum caudis incrassatis, petalis truncatis sublobatis, et labello oblongo cum callis humilibus supra medium distinguitur.

Plant large for the section, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots fleshy. Ramicauls stout, erect, 2-3 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, obovate, obtuse, 11-13 cm long including a petiole 2-3 cm long, 2.2-2.6 mm wide, gradually narrowed below into the base. **Inflorescence** a single flower, followed by at least one successive flower, borne by an erect, purple-spotted, slender peduncle 9 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract tubular, 10 mm long; pedicel 13 mm long; ovary 5 mm long, smooth; **sepals** connate into a cylindrical, slightly arcuate tube, dull yellow dorsally, rose brown ventrally, glabrous, the dorsal sepal oblong-obovate, 12 mm long, 6 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex obtuse, contracted into an erect, thickened, yellow, purple-spotted tail 22 mm long, connate to the lateral sepals 10 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, obtuse, 20 mm long, connate 12 mm into a synsepal 15 mm wide, the apices contracted into thick, similar tails 8 mm long; **petals** white, cartilaginous, oblong, 6.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex truncate, obscurely bilobed, with a longitudinal callus on the upper half above the middle, the labellar half concave with a longitudinal callus along the margin ending in an erect, oblique, obtuse angle between the middle and the basal thirds; **lip** dark purple, oblong, 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, obtuse, with erect, broadly rounded margins below the middle, the disc shallowly concave between a pair of low, longitudinal calli with superficial folds above the middle, the base retuse, deeply incised, hinged beneath to the column-foot; **column** stout, semiterete, 5 mm long, with a stout foot 5 mm long with an incurved extension.

PANAMA: **Chiriqui**: without more exact locality, alt. 1900-2000 m, collected by A. Maduro and E. Olmos, cultivated at Finca Dracula since 2000, flowered in cultivation in Wilmington, DE, 6 Dec. 2003, by V.N.M. Rao 161 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20539.

This species from the mountains of westernmost Panama, is a member of section *Minutae*. It is most similar to some of the variations seen in *M. floribunda* which is found farther north in Mesoamerica. It is a large plant compared to many others in the section. The leaves are broad, obtuse, and thickly coriaceous. The peduncle is purple-spotted and erect, bearing the flower below the tips of the leaves. An early bud of a successive flower is present within the floral bract.

The sepals are connate into a cylindrical tube that is yellowish above with a stout, erect, yellow, purple-spotted tail, and purplish below with a pair of close, much shorter, similarly spotted tails. The marginal callus of the petals, the hallmark of the section, defines a concave labellar half above the basal third. An additional longitudinal callus is present on the opposite half above the middle. The lip is oblong with the diagonal superficial folds above the middle.

