

*Masdevallia pleurothalloides* Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis abbreviatis unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis anguste ellipticis, flore solitario, pedunculo folio longiore, ovario ciliato cristato, sepalis membraneis libris oblongis acuminatis, ciliatis, punctatis, petalis albis oblongis carinatis apice tridentatis, labello aureo crasso oblongo obtuso bilamellato.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, 5-7 mm long, concealed by 2-3 thin, loose sheaths, unifoliolate. Leaf coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, the apex subacute, tridenticulate, the base acuminate, narrowly cuneate, lightly channeled, 1.5-3.5 cm long, 4-8 mm wide. Inflorescence a solitary flower borne on a slender, glabrous peduncle, 2.5-4 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem, floral bract and pedicel each about 4 mm long; ovary coursed by 3 spiculate, serpentine crests, 1.5 mm long; sepals membranous, free spreading, cream-colored, with small, brownish spots, oblong, acuminate, acute, ciliate along the margins and veins, the dorsal sepal 9-10 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals slightly oblique, connate only at the base, with a thickened bright orange spot near the base, each 9-10 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; petals white, oblong, slightly curved, the apex tridentate, with a rounded callosity extending from near the base to above the middle, 4 mm long, 1 mm wide; lip bright orange, with red flecks below the middle, thick, oblong, the apex obtuse, channeled down the center between lamellae which originate from the lateral margins below the middle, and which terminate just below the apex, 6-7 mm long, 1.8 mm wide; column green, slender, 4 mm long, with a foot 2 mm long.

**ETYMOLOGY:** Named for superficial resemblance of the flower to a flower of the genus *Pleurothallis*.

**TYPE:** PANAMA: epiphytic in cloud forest on Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m. 12 Nov. 1967, *R. L. Dressler 3155* (HOLOTYPE: SEL); same area, 2 March 1976, *C. Luer, J. Luer & P. Taylor 1281* (SEL), flowered in cult 25 Nov. 1976.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Panama.

The very un-masdevallia-like flower of this species, with its free, widely spread, spotted sepals and protruding bright orange lip appears very much like a flower of *Pleurothallis*. Vegetatively, the plant is unremarkable except for its similarity to other species of *Masdevallia*, as well as to the horde of *Pleurothallis* related to *P. fulgens* Rchb. f., *P. brighamii* S. Wats., etc.

Morphologically, the petals and lip of the colorful flower are typical of the genus *Masdevallia*. The waxy petals are provided with a smooth, rounded keel coursing up the center from the labellar margin near the base. Near the middle of the fleshy lip, lamellae curve inward from the margins to terminate near the apex.

