

Masdevallia portillae Luer & Andreetta, sp. nov.

Inter species sectionis *Alaticaulium* Krzl. pedunculo crasso, floribus grandibus, synsepalo lato biapiculato, petalis oblongis apiculatis cum carina alata et dente basali etiam apice labelli villosa distinguitur.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems semiterete, 2-3 cm long, unifoliate, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, gradually short-petiolate, 12-15 cm long including the 2-3 cm long petiole, 2.5-3 cm wide, the obtuse apex tridentate, the base gradually narrowed into the petiole. Inflorescence a congested raceme of successive, large, nutant flowers borne at the apex of an erect, stout, 14-18 cm long, sharply triquetrous peduncle, 5 mm thick at the apex, subtended by a bract, from a node at the base of the secondary stem; floral bract subacute, broadly conduplicate, 14 mm long, 7 mm broad; pedicel 7-8 mm long, enclosed by the floral bract; ovary 7 mm long, subverrucose, partially enclosed by the floral bract; dorsal sepal yellow, suffused with purple above the middle, the apex green, ovate, 49 mm long, 9 mm wide, connate 14 mm to the lateral sepals to form a cylindrical tube, the free portion narrowly triangular, forwardly directed, gradually tapering to the acute apex; lateral sepals maroon, connate 37 mm into an elliptical, cymbiform lamina 45 mm long, 24 mm wide, bifid at the apex into 8 mm long, green, acuminate tails; petals white, oblong, 9 mm long, 3 mm wide, the obtuse apex apiculate, minutely erose below the apiculum, with a longitudinal carina, broadly alate above the middle and produced into an obtuse tooth just above the base; lip maroon, oblong, 10 mm long, 4 mm wide, with a pair of acutely angled wings near the middle, the apical portion ovate, acute, densely villous with 3 longitudinal villous crests, the basal portion oblong, truncate, with concave "nectiferous" corners, hinged at the lower margin to the column-foot; column semiterete, 6.5 mm long, the stout foot 4 mm long with a very short, incurved extension.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Sr. Mario Portilla of Cuenca, Ecuador, who along with Padre Angel Andreetta discovered this species.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: MORONA-SANTIAGO: epiphytic in cloud forest near Cuyes, alt. 1500-1800 m, March 1978, collected by A. Andreetta & M. Portilla 55, cultivated in Cuenca, flowered in cult. 18 Aug. 1978, *C. Luer 3445* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Ecuador.

Masdevallia portillae is characterized by the large, nutant flower borne singly in a congested raceme at the apex of a thick, triquetrous peduncle. The long, narrow, free portion of the dorsal sepal overlies the broad, boat-shaped synsepal. The callus of the petal is a longitudinal carina presenting as a broadly rounded wing above the middle and ending in a stout tooth below. The apex of the lip is markedly villous.