

Masdevallia morenoi Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis brevibus unifoliatis, foliis coriaceis anguste ellipticis sensim subpetiolatis, flore solitario pallido flavovirenti, pedunculo tereti folio duplolongiore, sepalis tenuibus caudis gracilibus brevibus divergentibus, cupulo sepalorum brevi, petalis spatulatis obliquis acutis cum angulo margine inferiore incrassato, labello rubro punctato elliptico obscure trilobato, lobis lateralis late rotundatis, lobo antico anguste obtuso, disco incrassato bicarinato.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems short, terete, 4-7 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, tubular sheaths, unifoliolate. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, 2-3.5 cm long, 5-6 mm wide, tridenticulate at the subacute apex, gradually narrowed to a subpetiolate base. Inflorescence a solitary flower borne by a slender, terete peduncle, 7-8 cm long, from low on the secondary stem; floral bract thin, transparent, 3 mm long; pedicel 3.5 mm long; ovary with low, undulate wings, 3-4 mm long; sepals thin, pale yellow-green, glabrous, minutely dotted with purple within especially along the veins, with diverging tails less than 1 cm long, the dorsal sepal united to the lateral sepals for 4 mm into a short, open cup, the free portion triangular, the apex acuminate into a slender tail, total length 17 mm, width 4 mm, the lateral sepals connate for about 3 mm, ovate, oblique, the apices produced into tails similar to the dorsal sepal, total length 11 mm, 9 mm wide together; petals greenish white, obovate-spatulate, oblique, 3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, apiculate at the acute apex, the claw linear, with a thickened, obtuse angle near the middle of the labellar margin; lip pale yellow-green with red dots, elliptical, 4.25 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, obscurely 3-lobed, the lateral lobes near the middle, thin, broadly rounded, the apex narrow, obtuse, the base truncate, hinged below a short sinus, the disc thickened into a pair of low carinae above the middle; column terete, the lower margin edged in purple, 3 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Dr. Luis Moreno of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, who discovered this species.

TYPE: BOLIVIA: SANTA CRUZ: north of Caranda ca. 25 km SW of Buena Vista, alt. ca. 450 m, July 1975, L. Morneo s.n., cultivated by E. Marshall, Orlando, Florida, flowered in cult., 26 April 1977, *C. Luer 1606* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Bolivia.

This little species, apparently without close affinities, may be recognized by the small, solitary, greenish flower borne by a thin, erect peduncle which tops the clump of leaves by more than twice the height. The oblique, unguiculate petals are thickly angled at the lower margin, and the lip is provided with thin, broadly rounded, lateral lobes.