

**Masdevallia schizostigma** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *schizostigma*, "a split stigma," referring to the divided stigma.

Planta parva, *M. sanchezii* Luer similis, sed labello laevi ad basim columnae inflexibile connato, et stigmate bifurcato distinguitur.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, blackish, 0.5-1 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, petiolate, 4-6 cm long including the petiole 1.5-2 cm long, the blade narrowly elliptical, subacute, 0.8-1 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the blackish petiole. **Inflorescence** a single flower borne by an ascending, slender peduncle 4-5 cm long, with a bract near the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract 4 mm long; pedicel 4 mm long; ovary 4 mm long, carinate; **sepals** yellow, tricarinate along the veins, the dorsal sepal ovate, 25 mm long including the tail, 4.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 4.5 mm to form a sepaline tube, the free portion triangular, the apex acute, attenuated into a slender, antrorse tail, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate, 25 mm long including the tails, each 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 6 mm without forming a shallow mentum, rose, the apices attenuated into slender, yellowish tails; **petals** white, glabrous, narrowly elliptical, sharply acute, 6 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined, slightly thickened along the labellar margin; **lip** yellow, smooth, narrowly elliptical-ovate, sharply acute, 7 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined, the disc featureless, the base truncate, inflexibly attached to the base of the column; **column** semiterete, 2.5 mm long, the anther operculate, non-deciduous, the stigma bifurcated, the foot obsolescent.

PERU: Amazonas: El Mirador, alt. 2000 m, July 1998, *Patrick Cloes s.n.* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 18886.

This little species, apparently endemic in northeastern Peru, was collected by Patrick and Martine Close of Hasselt, Belgium. Superficially, the small, yellow, slender-tailed flower appears similar to *M. sanchezii*, with the acute tips of the petals and lip visible peeking out the sepaline tube. The petals and lip are similar to each other: narrowly elliptical and sharply acute. The single-veined lip is smooth and featureless. The truncate base is inflexibly connate to the base of the column. The anther is operculate and nondeciduous. The stigma is shallowly cleft between two short, pedicellate, stigmatic lobes, a feature heretofore unknown in the genus.

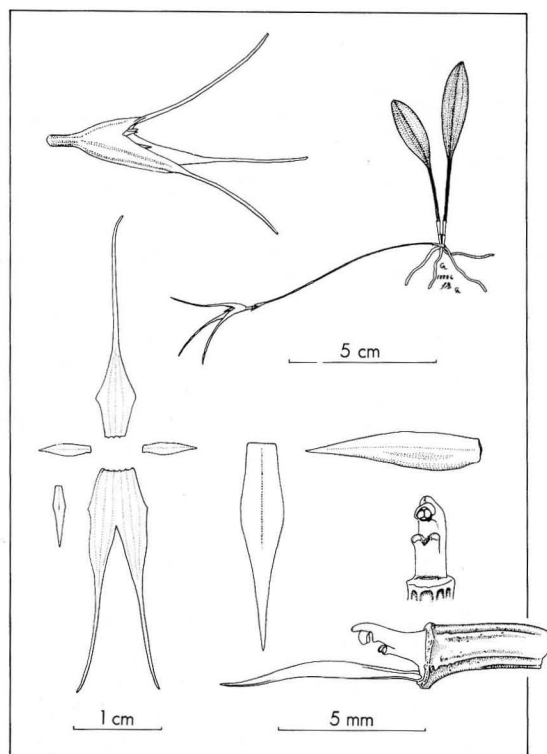


Fig. 7. *Masdevallia schizostigma*