

Masdevallia speciosa Luer & Malo, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis brevibus, foliis erectis coriaceis obovatis petiolatis, pedunculo tereti gracili erecto, racemo paucifloro floribus successivis, cupula sepalorum conoidea cuprea vel rubiginosa caudis filiformibus subaequilongis, petalis truncatis cum angulo basali subacuto retrorso, labello oblongo apice et marginibus anticis deflexis.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems semiteretè, unifoliate, 2-3 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, obovate, petiolate, 8-11 cm long including the petiole, 2-2.5 cm wide, the apex subacute, tridenticulate, the midrib flanked by a parallel vein to either side, the base cuneate into the 2.5-4 cm long, slender petiole. Inflorescence a contracted, few-flowered (2-3?) raceme of successive flowers borne by an erect, slender, terete peduncle ca. 12 cm long, with a bract below the middle, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract tubular, 11 mm long; pedicel 15 mm long; ovary 7 mm long; sepals glabrous, yellow-orange minutely speckled with red externally, internally bright, rusty, red-orange, more intense along the veins, the surface glandular-cellular, the dorsal sepal ovate, the blade 23 mm long, 12 mm wide, subcarinate, connate to the lateral sepals for 14 mm to form a conical tube, the free portion triangular, the acute apex contracted into an erect, filiform tail 18 mm long, the lateral sepals elliptical, oblique, the blades 26 mm long, 15 mm wide, connate midway, the free portions ovate,

reflexed, the subacute apices contracted into filiform tails 15 mm long; petals white, cuneate, 5.5 mm long, 1.5-2.5 mm wide, the truncate apex minutely lobulate, with an oblique carina along the inferior margin ending in a retrorse, subacute angle at the base; lip cream marked with purple, oblong, 6.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the margins of the distal third and the subacute apex deflexed, the truncate base notched, hinged from the lower margin; column white marked with purple, semiterete, 5 mm long, the 3 mm long foot ending in an incurved extension.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *speciosus*, "showy," in reference to the colorful, showy flower.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: epiphytic in cloud forest, alt. ca. 2700 m, between Loja and Zamora, 1976, B. Malo s.n., cultivated near Cuenca, flowered in cult. 20 Aug. 1978, *C. Luer 3320* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Ecuador.

The most conspicuous feature of this showy, terete-stemmed, successively flowered species is the bright burnt red-orange or coppery color of the conical sepaline tube. Except for the filiform tails, the flower resembles one of *Masdevallia racemosa* Lindl. in size and brilliance of color although the color is obviously a darker hue.