

Masdevallia tokachiorum Luer, sp. nov

Planta parva caespitosa, pedunculo erecto gracili plerumque unifloro foliis anguste ellipticis subaequali, sepalis illis sectionis *Coriaceae* similibus sed lateralibus expansis fere liberis, petalis cum dente illis sectionis *Minutae* similibus, et labello oblongo inter sepala lateralia protrudenti.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. **Ramicauls** slender, erect, 1 cm long, enclosed by 2 or 3 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, 6-7 cm long, the blade narrowly elliptical, subacute, 0.8-0.9 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the indistinctly petiolate base. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, occasionally followed by a second, borne by a slender, erect to suberect peduncle 6-6.5 cm long, with a thin bract above the base, from near the base of a ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, thin, 7 mm long; pedicel 7 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; **dorsal sepal** yellow, sparsely short-pubescent within, ovate, the blade 11 mm long, 6 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 5 mm to form a short, broad, cylindrical tube with a deep mentum, the free portion triangular, acute, contracted into a slender, forwardly directed tail 8 mm long; **lateral sepals** yellow, suffused with brown except near the margins, densely short-pubescent within, ovate, oblique, the blades 12 mm long, 5 mm wide, diverging, connate 3 mm, the apices acute, contracted into slender tails 8 mm long; **petals** white, elliptical-oblong, 5.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex obtuse, retuse or shallowly bilobed, the labellar margin with a low, longitudinal callus with an obtuse, conical process near the middle; **lip** brown, oblong, 7.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the apex rounded with the margins shortly revolute and erose, the disc microscopically pubescent, shallowly sulcate between a longitudinal pair of low calli, slightly more distinct above the middle, the base subtruncate, deeply cleft, hinged beneath; **column** white, with purple margins, semiterete, 6 mm long, the foot 5 mm long with an incurved extension. **ETYMOLOGY**· Named in honor of Robert Tokach, who discovered this species, and Kenneth Tokach of Tacoma, Washington, who successfully cultivated this species.

TYPE: PANAMA. Prov. of Chiriquí: epiphytic in forest near the Fortuna dam site, alt. ca. 1000 m, collected March 1985 by R. Tokach, flowered in cultivation by K. Tokach in Tacoma, Washington, Sept. 1990, *C. Luer 14943* (Holotype: MO).

One plant of this species was discovered by Robert Tokach in 1985 out of flower in an area presumably well known botanically. In cultivation by Kenneth Tokach the plant has grown well, but it did not flower until several flowers were produced simultaneously in 1990, over five years later. The peduncles were single-flowered, but at least one was followed by a second flower. If plants flower as infrequently in the wild as they do in cultivation, they would indeed escape detection.

Although this most unusual species does not fit into the key (Luer, 1986), I believe that it belongs to section *Coriaceae*. The lateral sepals are spread, only shallowly connate below the deep mentum. The oblong lip protrudes or hangs over the cleft between them, reminiscent of a *Porroglossum*.

The "tooth" above the margin near the middle of the petal, not previously seen in section *Coriaceae*, suggests section *Minutae*, and this is augmented by the fact that a second flower can follow the first. However, a second flower is known to occur in a few species in *Coriaceae*. A hybrid origin could be entertained because *M. attenuata* Reichb. f. is "common" in the area where this species was discovered, but there is no known member of *Coriaceae* to supply the other parent.