

*Masdevellia walteri* Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, caulibus secundariis abbreviatis unifoliatis, foliis carnosis obovatis pedunculo gracili unifloro longioribus, flore aureo probabiliter autogamo, sepalis oblongis in tubum connatis, caudis gracilibus sepalis leviter longioribus, petalis albis oblongis margine inferiore incrassato, labello flavo ovato obtuso biplicato.

Plant medium-sized, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems stout, unifoliate, 2-3.5 cm long, concealed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect to suberect, thickly coriaceous, shiny, narrowly obovate, 7-13 cm long including the 2-4 cm long petiole, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, the apex subacute to obtuse, tridenticulate, cuneate below into the sulcate petiole. Inflorescence a solitary, yellow-orange, commonly fertilized flower (autogamous?) borne by a slender, suberect peduncle 6-9.5 cm long, with a bract below the middle, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract tubular, 7-9 mm long; pedicel 14-18 mm long; ovary green, 5 mm long, lengthening in older flowers; sepals glabrous, yellow-orange with orange tails, the dorsal sepal oblong, 13 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 7 mm to form a curved, sepaline tube, the triangular free portion contracted into a slender tail ca. 17 mm long, the lateral sepals 12 mm long, connate 8 mm to form an arcuate, oblong, bifid lamina 9 mm wide, the acute apices produced into tails ca. 14 mm long; petals white, oblong, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the rounded apex bluntly apiculate, with a low rounded thickening along the lower half, slightly dilated below the middle; lip yellow, ovate, 4.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, with marginal folds above the middle, the apical portion oblong, obtuse, with a high, grooved callus from the truncate base to above the middle, hinged beneath; column white, stout, semiterete, 5 mm long, with a foot 2 mm long, ending in an incurved extension.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Kerry S. Walter, research fellow in the Department of Botany of the National Museum, San José, Costa Rica, who discovered this species.

TYPE: COSTA RICA. SAN JOSE: epiphytic in wet cloud forest, alt. 2850 m. above Division on the road to San Isidro, 21 July 1979, K. S. Walter 79199 (HOLOTYPE: SEL; ISOTYPE: CR): same area, in fruit, 20 Sept. 1979, C. Luer, J. Luer & K. S. Walter 4242 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Costa Rica.

Although vegetatively indistinguishable from many other species of the genus, *M. walteri* may be recognized by the solitary yellow-orange flowers that commonly produce capsules. The flower is reminiscent of those of *M. attenuata* Rchb. f. and *M. laucheana* Krzl., but this species may be distinguished by the color of the flower and the toothless petals.