

*Masdevallia butcheri* C. Luer, sp. nov.

Planta minutissima epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis brevissimis unifoliatis, foliis carnosissimis anguste ellipticis, racemo subfasciculato pedunculo glabro filiformi folio longiore, flore solitario successivo luteo-luteo-purpureo vittato cum caudis sepalorum aureis brevibus, sepalis lateralibus anguste oblongis supra medium connatis caudis ex apicibus oriundis, petalis anguste ovatis apiculatis pellucidis, labello rubro anguste ovato obtuso base subsagittato disco bicalloso.

Plant minute, epiphytic, caespitose; roots filiform, flexuous. Secondary stems very short, 1-2 mm long, enclosed by 1-2 short, tubular sheaths, unilinate. Leaves fleshy, narrowly elliptical, subacute, retuse, tridentate, the base cuneate, subpetiolate, 10-15 X 2-3 mm. Inflorescence a contracted, subsiculate raceme at the apex of a filiform peduncle, about 2 cm long, glaucous, from a node on the secondary stem; flowers produced singly and successively, pale yellow, striped with red-purple, with short, yellow tails; dorsal bract 2 mm long; pedicel 3 mm long; ovary verruculose, 1 mm long; dorsal sepal united to the lateral sepals for 1 mm at the base, the lamina orbicular, concave, 2.5 X 2.5 mm, 3-veined, the tail clavate, 3.5 mm long, the entire sepal 6 X 3.5 mm; lateral sepals connate to above the middle to an oblong synsepal, the apices gradually terminating into tails 2.5 mm long, the entire synsepal 7.5 X 2.25 mm; petals narrowly ovate, the apex acuminate, indistinctly toothed, 1.8 X 0.5 mm, translucent yellow marked with purple; lip red, narrowly ovate-elliptical, the apex obtuse, convex, the base subsagittate-bilobed, the basal lobes projecting behind the articulation with the column-foot, the disc with a low pair of irregular, longitudinal calli extending forward from the basal lobes; column red with yellow apex, 1.75 mm long, with a pointed foot.

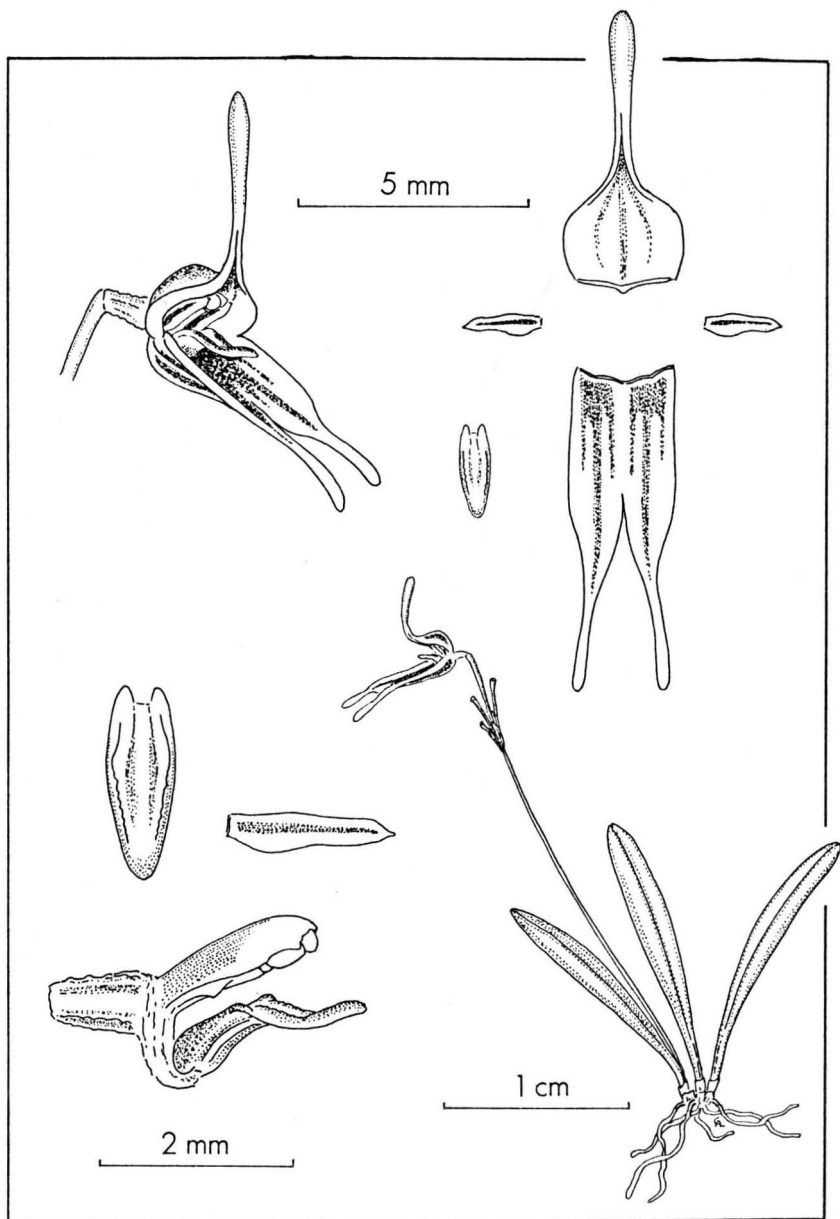
ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of its discoverer, Henry Butcher, of Volcán, Chiriquí.

TYPE: PANAMA: COCLÉ: epiphytic in old orange trees above El Valle, alt. ca. 1000 m, 2 September 1976, C. Luer & H. Butcher 1119 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic on Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m, 11 Sept. 1976, R. L. Dressler s.n. (SEL), flowered in cult. 8 Oct. 1976.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This species is the smallest of the section *Triaristellae*. It is most similar to the larger *Masdevallia dressleri* C. Luer. The hair-like peduncle bears tiny yellow flower prominently striped with maroon. Together the flat, narrow lateral sepals are narrower than the dorsal sepal. The short tails terminating the sepals point straight forward together. The petals and lip are very similar to those of *M. dressleri*.

Figure 111. *MASDEVALLIA BUTCHERI* C. A. Luer