

Masdevallia tenuissima *C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.*

Herba nana. Radices fibrosae, glabrae. Caules perbreves, vaginis tubularibus obtecti. Folium singulum, lineari-ellipticum vel lineari-oblancheolatum, erectum. Scapus singulus, filiformis, folium plus minusve superans, saepissime uni- vel biflorus. Sepala connata, in caudas carnosas abrupte contracta. Sepalum dorsale ovato-suborbiculare, cucullatum. Sepala lateralia lanceolata. Petala minuta, lanceolata, apice oblique tridentata. Labellum petalis aequilongum, oblongo-lanceolatum, dimidio basali bicarinatum.

Plant dwarf, caespitose, up to 3 cm. high. Roots fibrous, glabrous, slender but stout in relation to the plant. Stems minute, up to 5 mm. tall, concealed by one to three scarious tubular imbricating sheaths. Leaf solitary, linear-elliptic to oblanceolate-linear, subacute to rounded and minutely tridentate at the apex, cuneate-narrowed at the base, up to 1.7 cm. long and 2.4 mm. wide, subcoriaceous, with the mid-nerve more or less conspicuous. Scape filiform, more or less surpassing the leaf, with a single tubular closely clasping sheath near or below the middle, arising near the base of the stem, 1- to very rarely 4-flowered. Peduncle about 2.8 cm. or less tall. Flower small, membranaceous except the sepaline tails, somewhat bilabiate. Sepals connate at base. Dorsal sepal about 5.8 mm. long, connate with the lateral sepals for about 1.1 mm., basal part of the free portion about 2 mm. long, suborbicular-ovate, 3-nerved, abruptly contracted into a fleshy linear-subclavate cauda which is about 3.7 mm. long. Lateral sepals about 7.2 mm. long, connate for 2.8 mm.; each free part ovate-lanceolate, 3-nerved, abruptly contracted into a fleshy linear cauda which is about 2.8 mm. long. Petals much smaller, lanceolate, acute, very unequally tridentate at the apex, 2 mm. long, about 0.9 mm. wide near the middle, 1-nerved. Lip minutely unguiculate, oblong-lanceolate, 2 mm. long, about 0.75 mm. wide, rounded at the apex, 3-nerved, with two intramarginal fleshy keels above the lateral nerves of the basal half, the keels extended into minute auricles. Column short, stout, terminating in a dentate wing.

Masdevallia tenuissima is allied to *M. exigua* A. & S., and the very similar *M. pygmaea* Kränzl., but differs from both in having elongate scapes, not echinate ovary, and dissimilar petals and lip.

PANAMA, Province of Coclé, mountains beyond La Pintada. At 400-600 meters altitude. February 17, 1935. *A. A. Hunter & P. H. Allen 587* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 42015).