

Masdevallia aurea Luer, sp. nov.

Habitu *M. ventriculariae* Rchb. f. et affinibus similis, sed flore solitario vivido aureo pro planta grandi, pedunculo brevi, tubo sepalorum longo arcuato compresso supra mentum constricto, parte libra sepali dorsalis transverse ovata, partibus libris sepalorum lateralium longioribus ovatis, caudis reflexis filiformibus, petalis oblongis apice dilatatis bilobatis callo longitudinali base lobo obtuso et labello oblongo supra medium dilatato marginibus revolutis sinuatis differt.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems terete, short, 1-1.5 cm long, clothed by 1-2 loose, ribbed, tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, the apex subacute, tridenticulate, the base cuneate into a channeled pe-

tiolate 1.5-3.5 cm long, total length 6-11.5 cm, 18-21 mm wide. Inflorescence a proportionately large, single, bright orange flower borne at the apex of a terete peduncle 2.5-3 cm long, from low on the secondary stem; floral bract 6 mm long; pedicel 7 mm long; ovary 4-5 mm long; dorsal sepal oblong, 24 mm long, 10 mm wide, united for 18 mm to the synsepal to form a long, somewhat arcuate, compressed tube, constricted near the middle, the free portion transversely ovate, abruptly contracted into a bright orange, recurved, filiform tail 25-27 mm long; lateral sepals protruding beyond the dorsal sepal, connate for 25 mm, forming a mentum below the narrowed middle portion of the sepaline tube, 28 mm long, 15 mm wide, the free portions ovate, the apices produced into recurved tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; petals yellow, oblong, dilated at the rounded, bilobed apex, with a longitudinal callus above the labellar margin from near the apex to the end of an obtuse, basal lobe, 7 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; lip pale yellow, oblong-subpandurate, the margins revolute and sinuate above the middle, the apex narrowly rounded, the base truncate, hinged below, the disc 3-veined, 5.5 mm long, 2 mm wide; column pale yellow, edged below in purple, semiterete, 4 mm long, with a foot 2 mm long with an incurved extension.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *aureus*, "golden, orange," in reference to the color of the flowers.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: MORONA-SANTIAGO: eastern slopes of the Andes, alt. 1700 m, Dec. 1974, B. Malo s.n., cultivated near Cuenca, flowered in cult. 15 July 1977, C. Luer 1702 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Ecuador.

This rare species, apparently allied to the section *Tubulosae*, may be distinguished by its single, relatively large, bright orange flower borne by a relatively short peduncle. The sepaline tube is curved and constricted near the middle, the free portions of the lateral sepals protrude beyond the dorsal sepal, and the equally bright orange filiform tails are recurved.