

Masdevallia garciae Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa, foliis ellipticis pedunculo plerumque unifloro longioribus, sepalis flavo-virescentibus purpureo striatis in tubum connatis, caudis latis laminis sepalorum aequilongis, petalis oblongis subtridenticulatis, labello glabro oblongo lateribus leniter plicatis basi inciso.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems unifoliate, 1-1.8 cm long, enclosed by 2 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, 6-9 cm long including the 1.5-2.5 cm long petiole, 2 cm wide, the apex rounded, tridenticulate, narrowly cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a single-flowered (occasionally 2-flowered), slender, erect peduncle 4-5 cm long, with a bract near the base, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract 7-8 mm long; pedicel 10 mm long, dotted with purple; ovary 6-carinate, 4 mm long; dorsal sepal yellow, veined in purple-brown, oblong, connate to the lateral sepals for 7-9 mm to form a cylindrical tube, the free portion triangular, contracted into a broad, antrorse tail, the entire length of the dorsal sepal 17-24 mm, the width 5-6 mm; lateral sepals yellow-green, suffused and veined in purple-brown, ovate, oblique, connate 6 mm, the apices contracted into tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal, the entire length of the lateral sepals 18-20 mm, the width together 10-15 mm expanded; petals white with a purple midvein, oblong, 5 mm long, 1.6-2 mm wide, the obtuse apex lightly tridenticulate, the lower margin thickened with an obscure tooth on the basal third; lip dull yellow, dotted with red-brown, oblong, 6.5-7 mm long, 2.75-3 mm wide, the disc smooth with a pair of shallow marginal folds above the middle, the apex acute, the base cleft, hinged beneath; column greenish white with purple margins, semiterete, 5.5 mm long, the foot 2 mm long with a short, incurved extension.

Etymology: Named in honor of Sr. Carlos Garcia of Caracas, Venezuela, who discovered this species.

TYPE: VENEZUELA: FALCON: epiphytic in rain forest, Sierra de San Luis near Curimagua, 1960, alt. ca. 1200 m, C. Garcia s.n., *G. C. K. Dunsterville 555* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

Distribution: Northwestern Venezuela.

This species was identified as *M. striatella* Rchb. f. in *Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated* 3: 172, 1965, and was pictured and illustrated in *Orchideeën* 42: 40, 1980, as an unidentified species.