

*Masdevallia teaguei* Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris epiphytica caespitosa, caulibus secundariis aliquantum longis unifoliatis, folio coriaceo elliptico petiolato, racemo brevi floribus congestis successivis, pedunculo erecto cylindrico folio paulo brevior, flore aurantiaco rubro suffuso sepalis minute pubescentibus ringentibus brevicaudatis basibus in cupulam brevem connatis, petalis ellipticis obtusis apiculatis basi cum dente brevi, labello crasso ovato trilobato, lobis lateralibus aliformibus prostratis, lobo apicali trilamellato.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems terete, 2-5 cm long, unifoliate, concealed by 2-3 loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, elliptical, petiolate, 9-13 cm long including the petiole up to 3.5 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, the rounded apex tridentate, the base cuneate into the channeled petiole. Inflorescence a congested raceme, up to 3 cm long, producing up to 8 flowers in succession, at the apex of an erect, rounded, peduncle 10-13 cm long, with a bract below the middle or near the base, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract tubular, 8-10 mm long; pedicel 12-16 mm long; ovary subverrucose, 6 mm long; sepals yellow-orange suffused with red, minutely short-pubescent within, widely spread from a well-formed sepaline cup, the dorsal sepal connate to the lateral sepals for 8 mm, obovate, 15 mm long, 9 mm wide, the free portion ovate, the obtuse apex contracted into an erect, slender, 17 mm long tail, the lateral sepals connate 15 mm to form a deep mentum immediately below a sharp transverse fold at the base of the column-foot, each broadly ovate, oblique, 17 mm long, 10 mm wide, the subacute apices contracted into tails 7 mm long; petals yellow, marked with red, elliptical, oblique, 6 mm long, 3 mm wide, the truncate apex obscurely tridentate, the middle tooth a decurved apiculum, the base with a short, thick, acute tooth above the lower margin, originating obliquely from the lower third of the column; lip red-orange, ovate, 6 mm long from the base to the apices of the lateral

lobes, 3.75 mm wide, deeply cleft down the center into a pair of prostrate, truncate, lateral lobes overlying the rigidly decurved, rounded apical lobe 2.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, with 3 tall, subverrucose lamellae, the base of the lip thickened, hinged below to the bottom of the column-foot; column yellow, semiterete, 6.5 mm long, the foot 4 mm long, very thick, incurved, the apex sub-bulbous.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Walter Teague of San Francisco, California, a co-discoverer of the species.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: epiphytic in cloud forest near Valladolid, alt. ca. 2300 m, July 1975, collected by W. Teague, L. Figueroa & D. Welisch s.n., cultivated at San Francisco, California, flowered in cult. Sept. 1977, and Sept. 1978, *C. Luer 2035* (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

This attractive species is apparently without close affinities. It may be recognized by the petiolate leaf and an equally long, erect inflorescence. The peduncle is round in cross-section. The gaping yellow-orange flowers suffused with red are borne successively in a congested raceme. The sepals are connate basally into a distinct cup with a deep mentum, sharply angled beneath, then widely spread. The apex of the petals is provided with a decurved apiculum. The lip is deeply cleft centrally to form flat, wing-like, lateral lobes that overlie the decurved, trilamellate, apical lobe. The thickened base is connected beneath to the bottom of a thickened, bulbous column-foot by a thin, broad strap.