

Masdevallia semiteres Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Species haec *M. civilis* Rchb. f. similis sed foliis pedunculisque brevioribus, floribus minoribus caudis brevibus, petalis obtusis et labello denticulato non-verruculoso notabilis.

Plant small to medium in size, presumably epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems thick, terete, unifoliate, 1.5-3 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 short, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect to suberect, gray-green, very thick, fleshy, semiterete, narrowly linear-obovate, sulcate, 4-9.5 cm long, 0.7-1 cm wide, 0.4-0.5 cm thick, the apex acute, tridenticulate, gradually narrowed below to the base. Inflorescence a solitary flower borne by a suberect peduncle 1-1.5 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract 1 cm long; pedicel 1.5-2 cm long; ovary light brown spotted with brown, 6-7 mm long; sepals thick, fleshy, glabrous externally, minutely pubescent within, light brown speckled with purple-brown, with short, yellow tails, the dorsal sepal oblong, connate to the lateral sepals for 11 mm to form a broad, cylindrical tube, the free portion triangular, acuminate into the short, erect, thick tail, the total length 25 mm, 10 mm wide, the lateral sepals oblong, connate for 11 mm into a bifid lamina 17 mm broad, the total length 26 mm, forming with the column-foot a deep, rounded mentum, the free portions subovate, contracted into thick tails ca. 6 mm long; petals white with a red apex and midvein, oblong, 9.5 mm long, 4 mm wide, the apex more or less rounded with an apiculum, with callous thickenings of both margins ending below the middle; lip purple, spotted with dark purple, thick, oblong, 11 mm long, 5.75 mm wide, the apex obtuse, minutely denticulate, non-verrucose, the disc with a pair of low, subparallel calli above the middle, the base subcordate, hinged beneath; column white, semiterete, 7.5 mm long, the foot equally long, with a short, incurved extension.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *semi-*, "half-," and *teres*, "terete," referring to the fleshy, narrowly cylindrical leaves.

TYPE: *PERU:* without locality, alt. 2400 m, collected by D. Bennett s.n., cult. by D. Richardson 1959, cultivated at La Ceja, Colombia by M. & O. Robledo, flowered in cult. 12 July 1979, *C. Luer 2955* (HOLOTYPE: SEL ; ISOTYPE: JAUM).

DISTRIBUTION: Peru.

The small fleshy, semiterete, gray-green leaves of this species are distinctive. The single, fleshy, brown flower diffusely speckled with purple-brown is borne by a short peduncle. The anterior margins of the lip are minutely denticulate but the surface is non-verrucose.