

# Masdevallia bellissima

BOGARÍN, PUPULIN & KARREMANS  
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**Type:** Costa Rica. Limón: Talamanca, Bratsi, 1740 m. 26 April 2017, flowered in cultivation 16 August 2017. A.P. Karremans et al. 7793 (holotype, CR; isotypes, JBL, USJ; LCDP voucher).

**Etymology:** From the Latin *bellissimus*, “very beautiful”, in allusion to the lovely, magnificent flower, which is among the showiest of the genus in Costa Rica.

*Masdevallia bellissima* is most similar to *M. schroederiana*, from which it differs in the pinkish white flowers suffused with yellow (vs. blood red with white center), the smooth surface of sepals (vs. verrucose), the petals white with pink stains along the midvein, the lip white inconspicuously spotted fuchsia (vs. purplish with a red stripe along the midvein) and the oblong lip (vs. subpandurate).

#### References:

Pupulin, F. & L. Oses. 2020. *Masdevallia*. Pp. 572–609 in: F. Pupulin (ed.). *Vanishing Beauty. Native Costa Rican Orchids. Vol. 2: Lacaena–Pteroglossa*. Koeltz Botanical Books, Oberreifenberg.

*Plant* epiphytic, caespitose, erect, up to 15 cm tall. *Roots* flexuous, to 1 mm wide. *Ramicauls* erect, up to 1 cm long, enclosed by 2–3, tubular sheaths 1 cm long. *Leaves* bright green, erect to suberect, coriaceous, oblong-elliptic, obtuse, emarginate, with a short apiculus, 3–7 cm long including the 1–2 cm long petiole, 7–10 mm wide, the base gradually narrowed. *Inflorescence* single flowered. *Peduncle* light green, sparsely spotted with brown, suberect, to 11 cm long, with three tubular bracts. *Floral bract* tubular, 10 × 2 mm. *Pedicle* light green, cylindric, 15 mm long. *Ovary* subclavate, light green 5 × 3 mm, with 6 straight ribs. *Flowers* fleshy, without perceptible fragrance, pinkish white suffused with yellow, the sepaline tails yellow, the petals white with pinkish purple stains along the midvein, the lip white inconspicuously spotted fuchsia along the keel, the column white with pinkish purple stains along the ventral side. *Dorsal sepal* broadly obovate, 9 cm long including the tail, 1.5 cm wide, connate 13 mm to the lateral sepals to form an open, cylindrical sepaline tube, the free portion ca. 7.5 cm long including the tail, basally subrhombic, abruptly contracted into a slender, erect, apical tail to 6.5 mm long. *Lateral sepals* obovate, oblique, 8 cm long including the tails, connate 1.5 cm to form a lamina 2.5 cm wide when expanded, the free portion ca. 7.5 cm long, including the erect apical tails, each basally ovate, gradually contracted into a slender, descending, ca. 6 cm long apical tail. *Petals* asymmetrically ovate, oblique, unguiculate, 6 × 2–3 mm, the apex acute to rounded, the labellar margin with a low, inconspicuous, longitudinal callus. *Lip* oblong, base subtruncate, hinged beneath, convex, recurved with an incurved apex, 6–6.5 × 2–2.5 mm, the callus made up of two low keels. *Column* semiterete, 6 × 2 mm, provided with a foot 2 mm long, with a short, incurved extension. *Anther cap* cucullate. *Pollinia* two, ovoid, caudicles whitish, with a stretched whale tail shape.



**LCDP:** *Masdevallia bellissima* Bogarín, Pupulin & Karremans. **A.** Habit. **B.** Flower. **C.** Dorsal sepal and petals. **D.** Synsepal and lip. **E.** Petal, adaxial view. **F.** Lip, adaxial and abaxial views. **G.** Column and lip, lateral view. **H.** Anther cap. **I–J.** Different views of pollinarium.

