

Masdevallia fulvescens

ROLFE

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Synonyms: *Reichantha fulvescens* (Rolfe) Luer, Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 105: 13. 2006.

Type: Costa Rica: without locality, Dec. 1889, imported by *F. Horsman s.n.* (holotype, K).

Illustrated specimen: Costa Rica. Heredia: San Isidro, 1688 m. 30 diciembre 2013. *D. Bogarín 10803(a)*, *M. Bonilla*, *A. Villalobos*, *G. Villalobos* & *J.J. Zúñiga* (JBL-spirit; LCDP voucher).

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, up to 8 cm tall. *Roots* whitish brown, smooth, flexuous, to 1 mm in diameter. *Ramicauls* almost indistinguishable at the base of the blade, erect to suberect, up to 1 cm long, enclosed by 2–3 tubular sheaths to 15 mm long. *Leaves* green the base gradually narrowed in a light green petiole, erect to suberect, coriaceous, oblanceolate to spatulate from an aequilateral base, emarginated, inconspicuous apiculus, 3–7 × 0.5–1.2 cm including the petiole 10–30 mm long. *Inflorescence* successive-flowered with a single flower born at once; *peduncle* smooth, suberect, 7.5 cm long, with two bracts, one at the base and the other near to the pedicel; *floral bract* tubular, 9–10 × 2 mm; *pedicel* light green, 9 mm long. *Ovary* terete, light green, with some indistinct wine-colored spots, with 6 longitudinal grooves, 2 × 1–2 mm. *Flowers* fleshy, the dorsal sepal yellow tinged with faint purple along the channels adjacent to the nerves and with a small white area at the base, the lateral sepals white along the nerves, pale yellow on each upper side, with faint purple red channels, two purple blotches at the base surrounded by white, the sepaline tails yellow turning a little orange when aging, the petals white, the lip and the column white with very small purple red dots pattern. *Dorsal sepal* oblong to elliptic, 70 × 8 mm long, 8 mm wide, connate 10 mm to the lateral sepals forming a narrow sepaline tube, the free portion 55 mm long including the 50 mm long descending apical tail. *Lateral sepals* subrhombic, 75 mm long including the tails, connate 10 mm to form a lamina 13 mm wide when expanded, the free portion 63 mm long including the ca. 50 mm long tail, each half basally with a joint connected to the column foot. *Petals* asymmetrically ovate, oblique, unguiculate, 5 × 2 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, 4.8 × 1.8 mm. *Column* semiterete, 5 mm long. *Anther cap* white,

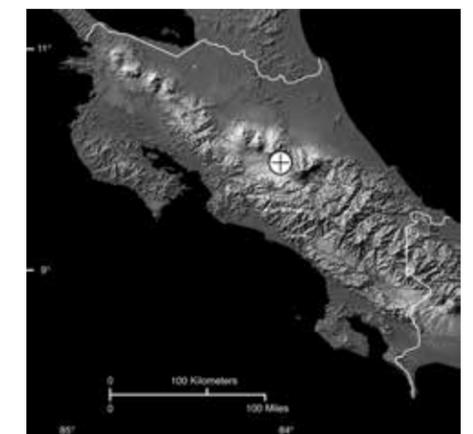
cucullate. *Pollinia* two, yellow, ovoid, with a whale tail-shaped caudicle.

Etymology: From the Latin *fulvescens*, “tawny”, referring to the yellowish-brown color of the flowers.

Even though this specimen is the same illustrated in other plates of this series (*Bogarín 10803*), there are visually more differences between the two flowerings of this individual plant than those recorded with another specimen of *M. fulvescens* from the same population (see, in this series, *Bogarín 10823*). The height of the plant decreased, under artificial cultivation, to 4 cm, making the inflorescence overshoot it. The lateral sepals have a bleached appearance. The tails, both dorsal and lateral, as observed in the first simultaneous flowering of this plant, present different orientations, showing how much plastic this characteristic can be in this species. On the other hand, the morphology of the lip and the column remains very consistent, possibly because of the more specific relationship of these organs with the pollinator.

References:

Luer, C. A. .2000. Icones Pleurothallidarum. XXI. Systematics of *Masdevallia*, Part Two. *M. subgenus Masdevallia*, section *Coriaceae*, section *Dentatae*, section *Durae*, section *Reiehenbachianae*, *M. subgenus Pygmaeia*. *Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard.* 82, 265-518.



LCDP: *Masdevallia fulvescens* Rolfe. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Perianth. D. Petal. E. Lip adaxial and abaxial views. F. Column ventral view. G. Pollinarium and anther views.

