

MAXILLARIA GOMEZIANA (ORCHIDACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM SOUTHERN CENTRAL AMERICA¹

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ABSTRACT: *Maxillaria gomeziana* J.T. Atwood is described from Panama and Southern Costa Rica for inclusion in regional floras. It is most easily distinguished from related *M. bracteata* (Schltr.) Ames & Correll by the trigonous rather than terete ovary.

WHILE PREPARING treatments of *Maxillaria* for *Flora Costaricensis* and *Manual de las Plantas de Costa Rica*, specimens appeared among those of *M. bracteata* (Schltr.) Ames & Correll that generally exhibited narrower leaves and trigonous ovaries. Living material, collected near the Wilson Garden at Las Cruces, Coto Brus, Costa Rica, flowered at SEL and exhibited yellowish-green flowers with red margined lip in addition to the leaf and ovary features. It is here described for the first time.

Maxillaria gomeziana J.T. Atwood, *sp. nov.*
TYPE: COSTA RICA. Puntarenas: Coto Brus, 1600 m, March 1995, Atwood, C. & J. Luer ex Atwood 5052 (Holotype: SEL). Fig. 1.

Planta similis *Maxillariae bracteatae* Schltr., sed ovarii trigonis et capsulis trialatis differt.

Plant a somewhat ascending, cane-forming epiphyte to about 30 cm tall, comprised of successively borne stems 5–10 cm long including the pseudobulb; roots 1 mm in diameter. **Pseudobulbs** fusiform, compressed, 1-foliate, 3.5–5 cm long, 1–1.5 cm wide, subtended by 1–4 strongly rugose sheaths, the uppermost with blades that are soon deciduous. **Leaf** blades shortly petiolate, subcoriaceous, linear-oblong, 12–28 cm long, 1–1.5 cm wide, the apex unequally 2-lobate. **Inflo-**

rescences 1–3 per foliaceous sheath axil; scapes 2.5–4 cm long; ovary with pedicel 11–15 mm long, trigonous, subequal to the subtending floral bract. **Flowers** with somewhat spreading segments, pale yellowish green, lip marked with red apically and on side lobes. **Sepals** similar, oblong to oblanceolate, acute, 1.7–2.3 cm long, 4–5 mm wide; the dorsal somewhat keeled dorsally and apically; lateral sepals recurved. **Petals** elliptic-oblanceolate, 1.6–1.8 cm long, 3–4 mm wide, acute. **Lip** hinged to column foot, 3-lobate below the middle, 1–1.2 cm long, 6–8 mm wide when spread; lateral lobes rounded, somewhat erect; midlobe fleshy, oblong-obovate with recurved lateral margins in natural position, rhombic when spread, rounded, abaxially keeled; callus fleshy, thickened and rounded in front, ending below sinuses between lobes, with a blunt central and 2 less distinct lateral keels. **Column** stout, arcuate, 5–6 mm including operculum, 3.5–4 mm without operculum, foot ca. 2 mm long; pollinia 4, about 1 mm in diam, supported on a stipe about 1.25 mm long. **Capsule** 3 winged.

PARATYPES: PANAMA. Chiriquí: East of Boquete along forested slopes and pastures on Cerro Azul near Quebrada Jaramillo, 1500–1620 m, 11 Aug 1974, Croat 26814 (SEL). Area around Volcán, ca. 1200 m, 23 Oct 1977, Folsom 6089 (MO). Coclé: Caribbean side of divide at El Copé, 200–400 m, 4 Feb 1983, Hamilton & Davidse 2708 (MO).

ETYMOLOGY: Named for Luis Diego Gómez, Director of the Wilson Garden at Las Cruces, and expert of its flora.

Maxillaria gomeziana is native to central Pan-

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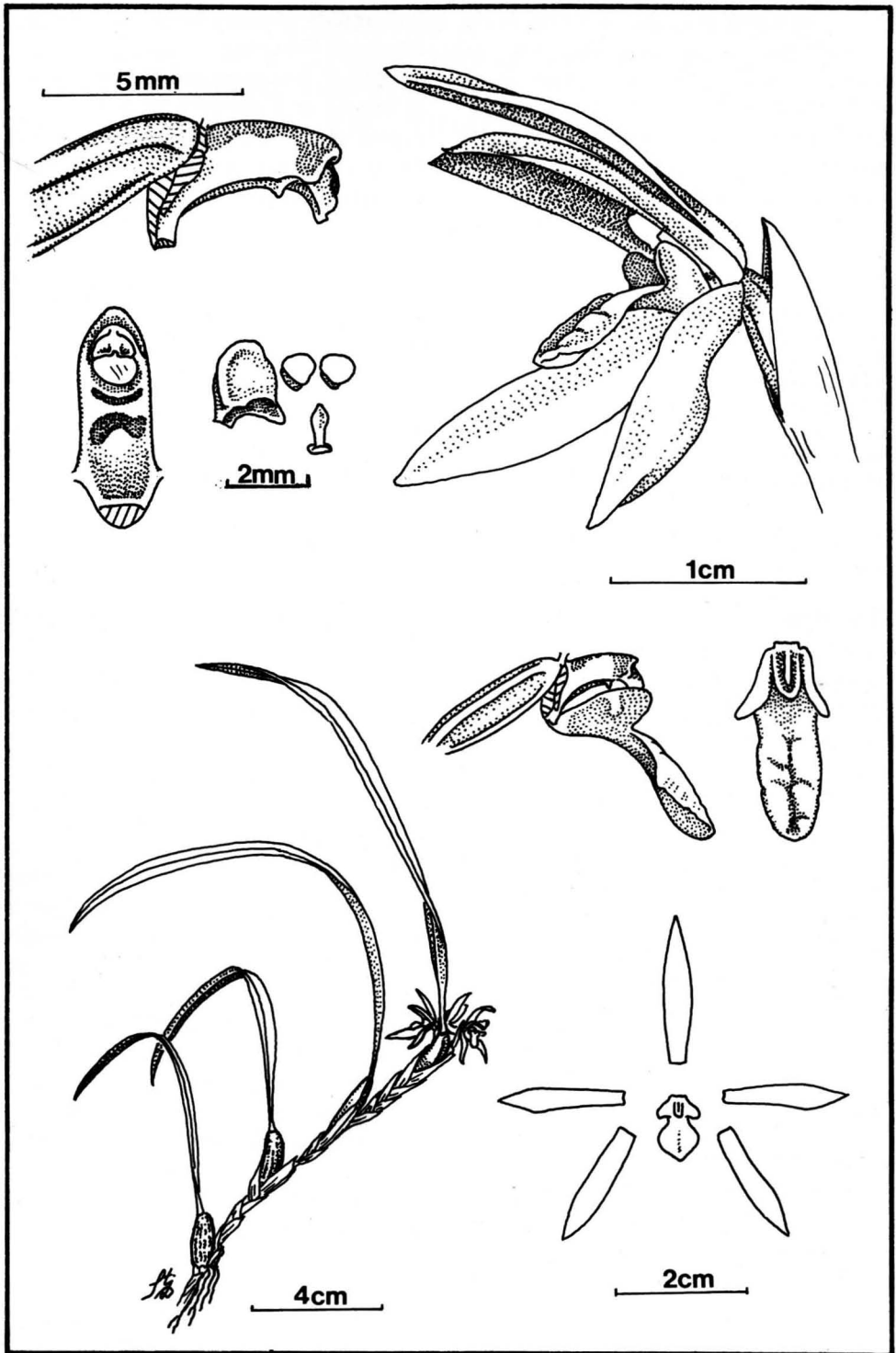


Fig. 1. *Maxillaria gomeziana* J.T.Atwood. Illustration by Stig Dalström based on live material.

ama and adjacent Costa Rica at (200)400–1620 m. Only recently has a living plant been seen in flower, hence the delay in its description. It is closely related to *M. bracteata* (Schltr.) Ames & C.Schweinf. but has narrower leaves, more slender pseudobulbs, more slender perianth segments, trigonous ovaries and triporate capsules. Flowering

season only partially known, at least August, October and February.

Both *M. bracteata* and *M. gomeziana* are closely related to a complex of entities currently accepted as *M. imbricata* Barb.Rodr. However, as far as is known, only the Central American species have a central keel on the callus.