

Maxillaria scalariformis J.T. Atwood, sp. nov.

FIGURE 4.

TYPE: PANAMA. Prov. Chiriquí: near "Vivero," 2–3 km. So. of Fortuna dam site, Valle de Hornito, 10 May 1982, *R.L. Dressler 6050* (Holotype: SEL).

Planta caulibus elongatis, a *Maxillariae tricarinatae* J.T. Atwood affinis, floribus grandioribus et callo non carinato differt.

Plant an erect, cane forming, often branched epiphyte to at least 50 cm. Stems erect to decumbent, 0.8–1.0 cm in diameter, concealed by nearly smooth leaf sheaths; larger roots to 2 mm in diameter. Pseudobulbs absent (juveniles?). Leaves borne along the canes, soon deciduous below; blades suddenly narrowed above the articulation, thin to subcoriaceous, lanceolate, 3.5–13 × 1.0–2.2 cm, unequally 2-lobate, apiculate,

each lobe rounded. Inflorescences 2 or more per leaf axil, and much shorter than the subtending leaf, scapes ca. 5 cm, not completely concealed by conduplicate, acute, scape bracts; ovary 0.8–1.3 cm, exceeded by the subtending floral bract

1.5–1.6 cm. Flowers large and attractive, about 4 cm across, pink to lavender with spreading recurved segments. Sepals similar, each with 5 or more nerves, elliptic-lanceolate, 1.7–2.6 × 0.5–0.9 cm, acute to shortly acuminate. Petals

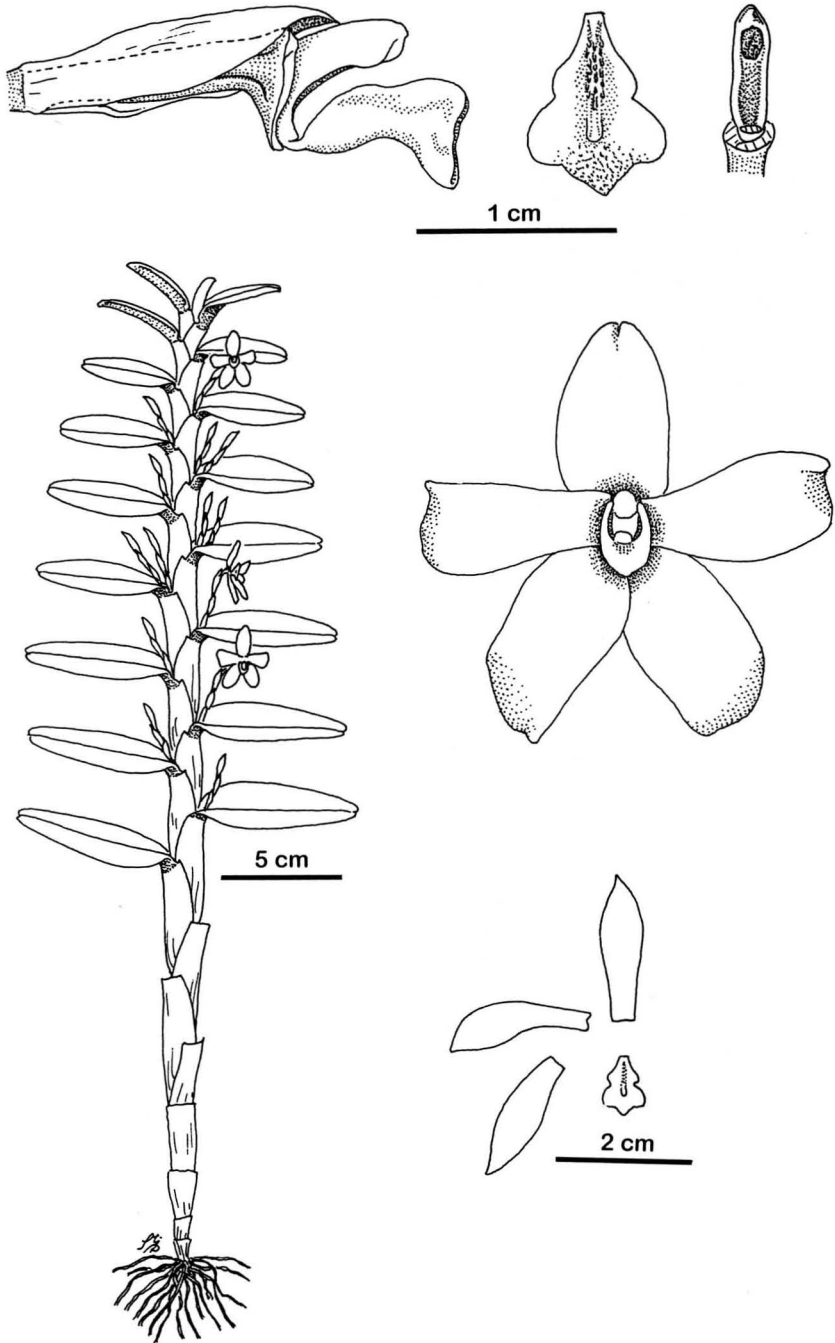


FIGURE 4. *Maxillaria scalariformis* J.T. Atwood. Drawn by S. Dalström: plant habit based on *McPherson 7820* (SEL); floral diagnosis based on *Dressler 6050* (SEL).

with 5–7 nerves, oblanceolate-falcate, 1.7–2.4 × 0.45–0.7 cm, acute to shortly acuminate. Lip loosely hinged to column foot, somewhat canaliculate in natural position, obovate to subpan-

durate when spread, 7–8.5 × 6–8 mm, 3-lobate on the apical $\frac{1}{2}$; lateral lobes somewhat embracing the column, broad, rounded; midlobe fleshy, verrucose, subtriangular to rounded, broader

than long; callus swollen and bulb-like with parallel sides, apically rounded, terminating below the midlobe, with numerous papillae at the base. Column stout, somewhat curved, cylindrical, 5–6 mm excluding foot (2.5–3 mm) and granular anther cap (1.5–2 mm). Capsule ellipsoid, ca. 3 cm, lacking a pedicel, appearing in axils below the axils containing flowers.

PARATYPES: PANAMA. Prov. Chiriquí: Gualaca-Chiriquí Grande Road over Fortuna Lake, 1,170 m elev., 23 Jun 1987, *Croat 66678* (SEL). Near Fortuna Dam along Quebrada de Arena, ca. 1,100 m, 6 Dec 1985, *McPherson 7820* (MO). Prov. Veraguas: “Cerro Tute” ridge up from former Escuela Agrícola, Sante Fe, 1,000–1,300 m, 20 Feb 1983, *Hamilton and Dressler 3063* (MO).

ETYMOLOGY: Named in allusion to the ladder-like appearance of the canes.

Maxillaria scalariformis is one of the most attractive flowers of the cane forming maxillarias. It is apparently endemic to rain forests of western Panama at 1,000–1,300 m, although it is expected to be found in adjacent Costa Rica. It most closely resembles *M. tricarinata* J.T. Atwood (see below) but has much larger flowers and proportionately smaller lip with much less well defined midlobe. Apparently flowering throughout the year.