

short column foot, ca. 1 cm long, sharply 3-lobate on the upper $\frac{1}{3}$; lateral lobes nearly truncate in front; midlobe fleshy, triangular $3-4 \times 2-3$ mm; calli two, one at the base tuberculate, one laminate callus ending below the base of the midlobe. Column ca. 5 mm long excluding the anther; foot 1-2 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: named for the lateral sepals that are more than $\frac{1}{2}$ joined.

Maxillaria synsepala is known only by the type collection from a cloud forest in western Panama at 2,200 m elev. It is unique among the cane-forming maxillarias for its lateral sepals that are about one half united. It is apparently unrelated to the *M. neglecta* (Schltr.) L.O. Williams group (*Pseudomaxillaria* and *Sepalosacus*). Despite their connate lateral sepals, this latter group contains species which have very different sympodial plant habits, distinct pseudobulbs, and much smaller flowers. Plant habit of *M. synsepala* as well as lip morphology suggests a relationship with *M. amabilis* J.T. Atwood and *M. monteverdensis* J.T. Atwood. Also potentially related is *M. biolleyi* (Schltr.) L.O. Williams which is monopodial lacking pseudobulbs as adults but sympodial with pseudobulbs as juveniles. *Maxillaria synsepala* is known only by the type collection with date suggesting at least a January to February flowering period.

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

FIGURE 5.

TYPE: PANAMA. Prov. Chiriquí: Distrito Bugaba, Cerro Punta, 2,200 m, 26 Jan 1985, *van der Werff and Herrera 6435* (Holotype: SEL; Isotype: MO).

A *Maxillariae biolleyi* (Schltr.) L.O. Williams affinis, sepalis a medio connatis et labello majore differt.

Plant incompletely known, apparently erect and monopodial; the holotype about 35 cm tall, but potentially much taller. Stem about 1 cm in diameter, concealed by the somewhat rugose leaf sheaths; roots unknown. Pseudobulbs absent as adults. Leaves distichous, obliquely articulate to the sheath; petioles short, narrowed very slightly above the articulation; blade thin, carinate beneath, elliptic, to ca. 9×2 cm. Inflorescences several per bract axil; scapes to about 7 cm, provided with long, linear, sharply acute bracts; ovary ca. 1 cm exceeded by an acute floral bract ca. 1.4 cm. Flowers medium sized, campanulate, white according to the collectors, delicate and probably short lived. Sepals dissimilar, the dorsal lanceolate, ca. 2.5×0.5 cm, acuminate; lateral sepals more than $\frac{1}{2}$ connate, ca. 2.5×0.8 cm; the apices acuminate. Petals elliptic lanceolate, ca. 2.3×0.4 cm. Lip continuous with the

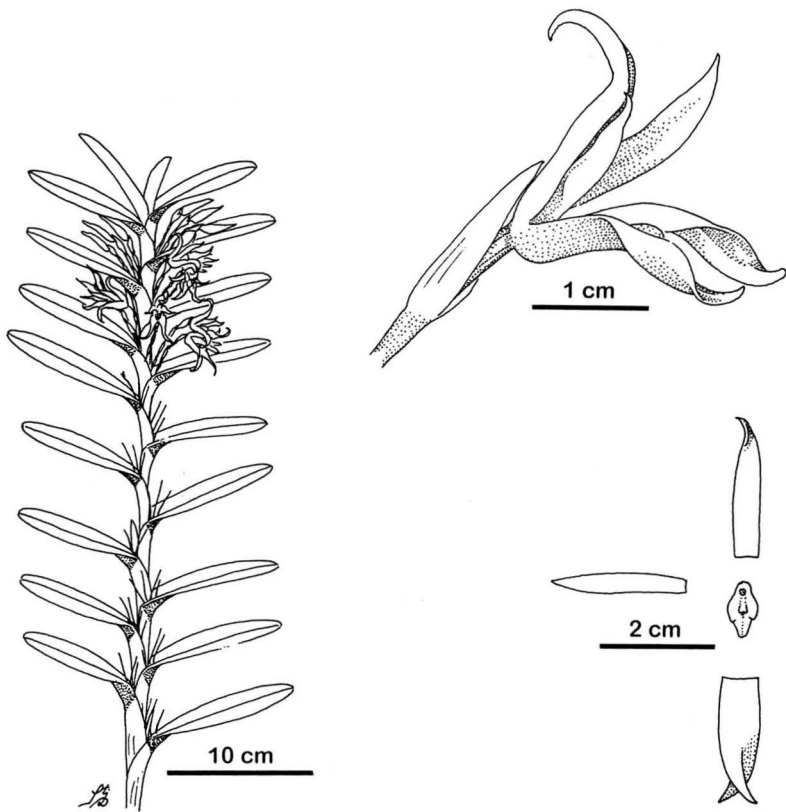
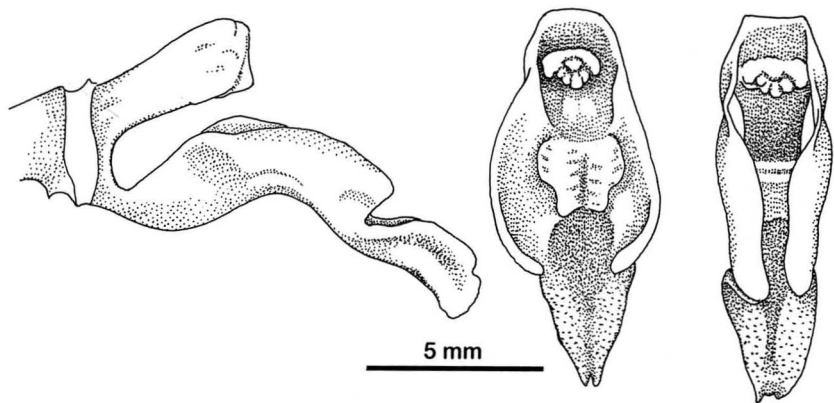


FIGURE 5. *Maxillaria synsepala* J.T. Atwood. Drawn by S. Dalström based on van der Werff and Herrera 6435 (SEL).