

**Maxillaria santanae** Carnevali & I. Ramírez,  
sp. nov. TYPE: Venezuela. Territorio Federal  
Amazonas: Departamento Atabapo, Cerro  
Marahuaca, porción central. Bosque con ár-  
boles hasta 20 m, aprox. 1,000 m. Floración  
en cultivo en el orquideario del colector, 11  
Nov. 1986, *G. Santana 1* (holotype, VEN).  
Figure 2.

Species haec *M. crassifoliae* et *M. superfluae* affinis  
sed species nostra habito conspicue parvior, petalis et  
labello proportione latioribus et labello unicalloso cinna-  
barino vel cinnabarino-roseo lobo centrali late triangulari  
discrepat.



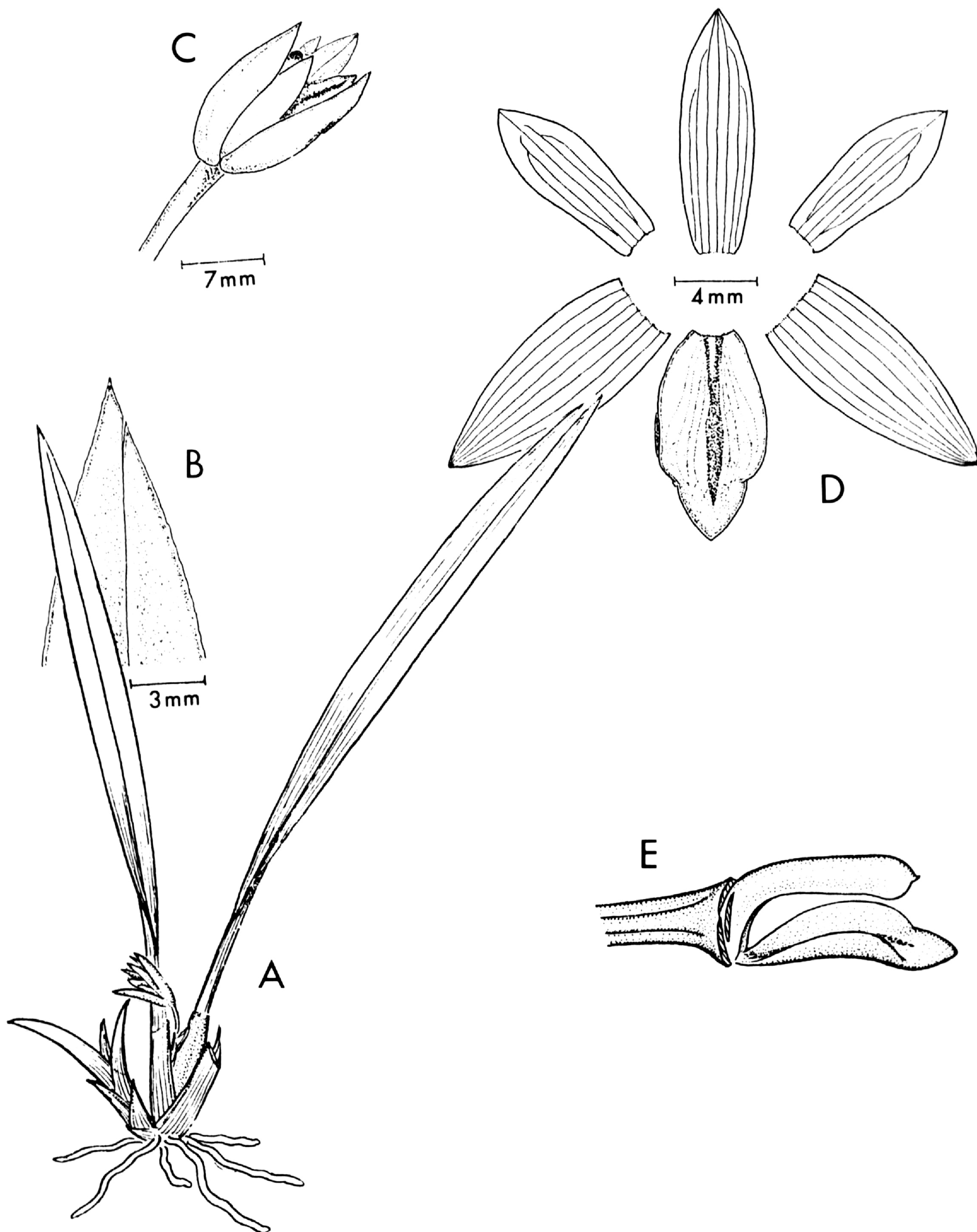


FIGURE 2. *Maxillaria santanae*. —A. Flowering habit. —B. Foliar apex. —C. Lateral view of flower at anthesis. —D. Perianth segments, flattened. —E. Labellum and column.

Small to medium-sized, epiphytic, caespitose, erect herbs, 11–23 cm high. Rhizome short and proportionately thick, entirely concealed by scarious sheaths. Roots proportionately thick and long, pale brown. Pseudobulbs aggregate, ovoid-ellipsoid,

ancipital, 2.1–3 cm long, 0.6–1 cm wide, apically unifoliate, clothed with 4–5 sheaths, the innermost 2–4 of these with foliar blades, the blades falling after 2–3 years of growth, leaving the sheaths persisting and becoming grayish brown in fresh or



dry condition. Leaves fleshy-coriaceous, erect or patent-erect, the outer leaves 10–15 cm long from the articulation, the apical leaf 14–21 cm long, 7–10 mm wide when fresh, 5–9 mm wide when dry, basally attenuate and forming a pseudopetiole 1–2.3 cm long, the blade apex acute and deeply oblicuous-bilobulate (one of the halves of the blades 2–4 mm longer than the other). Inflorescences one-flowered, originating from the leaf-sheath axils one at a time. Peduncle subterete, fleshy, 17 mm long, concealed by 3–5 subimbricate, distichous sheaths. Floral bract similar to the peduncle bracts, narrowly triangular, acute, membranose, 6 mm long, 2.5–3 mm wide. Pedicellate ovary subterete, 9–10 mm long, 2.5 mm thick. Flowers medium-sized, campanulate, erect or suberect; perianth segments fleshy, subparallel to the column, greenish yellow, the petals with or without a few small brown-orange dots, the labellum pale orange or rose-lilac with orange-brown basal patches and a salmon-colored, tomentose callus. Sepals elliptic-oblong, acute; the laterals slightly oblicuous, 11–13 mm long, 4–5 mm wide, with a dorsally thickened apex. Petals narrowly obovate-elliptic to narrowly elliptic, subfalcate, acute, 10–10.5 mm long, 2.7–3.2 mm wide. Labellum basally articulate with the column-foot, in overall shape elliptic, subtrilobate about the apical fourth, 9–9.5 mm long, 5–5.5 mm wide between the margins of the lateral lobes; lateral lobes suberect and making a concave labellar disc; central lobe broadly ovate or broadly triangular obtuse, 3.8–4 mm long, 2.8–3.2 mm wide, fleshier than the rest of the labellum and with a central concavity originating where the callus ends, the disc with a thickened, waxy, tomentous longitudinal callus, this 6–7 mm long, 1 mm wide. Column semiterete, slightly thickened, apically arcuate, 6.5–7 mm long; column foot 2–3 mm long. Anther subconic, 2 mm long, obtuse, the basal margins erose.

*Paratypes.* VENEZUELA. BOLÍVAR: confluencia del Caño Makarupai con el Río Akaruai, unos 10–15 km al SO de la Misión de Wonken, ca. 850 m, en bosque macrotermico medio/medio, caracterizado por una gran abundancia de epífitas debido a los rápidos de la confluencia. Floración en cultivo, Maracay, 2 Jan. 1984, *G. Carnevali 1445* (VEN).

This relatively scarce species has a wide range within the Venezuelan Guayana. One of the authors collected living plants of it in 1982 in the surroundings of Peray-tepui (W of Sta. Elena de Uairén, Gran Sabana, Estado Bolívar), but no voucher was made. The affinities of *M. santanae* lie with all the species of the *Dicrypta* group: *M. crassifolia* Reichb. f.; *M. superflua* Reichb. f., and per-

haps *M. bicallosa* (Reichb. f.) Garay, *M. charatifolia* Ames, and others. This is a difficult group in need of revision—the characters distinguishing the component members are not well defined and seem unreliable. Among the *Dicrypta* group, *M. santanae* can be easily recognized by its small vegetative stature; very narrow leaves; broadly ovate or broadly triangular, obtuse central labellum lobe; and orange-yellow or rose-lilac labellum, which has a callus in the disc and lacks another in the central lobe as is usual in other species of the group.

We are pleased to name this species after Dr. Gustavo Santana, an enthusiastic orchid collector and knowledgeable amateur orchid grower. He collected the living plant from which the holotype specimen was prepared and kindly provided fresh vegetative and floral material for study.