

**Maxillaria chartacifolia** A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba epiphytica, caespitosa, grandis. Pseudobulbi inconspicui, vaginis foliiferis distichis dense imbricantibus obtecti. Folia oblonga vel ligulata, acuta, chartacea. Flores solitariae, in scapo vaginato basali terminales. Sepala lateraliter ovato-lanceolata vel oblongo-lanceolata. Sepalum dorsale elliptico-oblongum vel oblongum. Petala oblanceolato-oblonga. Labellum in circuitu rhombicum, prope medium, obscure trilobatum. Discus in medio callosus.

Plant caespitose, large, epiphytic, about 45 cm. tall. Roots fibrous, flexuous, glabrous. Pseudobulbs very inconspicuous, concealed within leaf-bearing sheaths which are distichous, densely imbricating, conduplicate, finely punctate especially in their basal portion. Leaves ligulate, chartaceous, cuneate-narrowed below into a conduplicate petiole; lamina about 18–29 cm. long, 2.15–2.9 cm. wide, acute, mid-nerve conspicuously sulcate above and carinate beneath; petiole indistinct, about 2–5 cm. long. Inflorescences basal, 1-flowered. Scapes several, about 8.5–9 cm. tall up to the pedicellate ovary, clothed with loose scarious conduplicate sheaths which are shorter and imbricating at the base. Ovary clothed, and when immature, surpassed by a similar bract. Flower medium-sized, dull purplish red or brownish red. Lateral sepals oblong-lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, 1.82 cm. long, 6.5–7.3 mm. wide near the base, acute and somewhat dorsally thickened at the tip, slightly oblique, 7-nerved. Dorsal sepal similar, oblong or oblong-elliptic, about 1.75 cm. long, 6–8 mm. wide, acute and thickened at the apex, somewhat concave below, 7-nerved. Petals smaller, oblanceolate-oblong, 1.35 cm. long, 4.8–5.1 mm. wide above the middle, acute, apiculate. Labellum erect, parallel to the column and recurved in natural position, rhombic in outline, obscurely 3-lobed, the sides of the basal portion tubular-involute, 1.36 cm. long when expanded; basal part obovate, about 8.1 mm. long, about 6.4 mm. wide, traversed through the middle by a thickening which terminates in a distinct fleshy rounded callus; terminal part (middle lobe) ovate or oblong-ovate, rounded at the apex with a subapical mucro beneath, 5.5 mm. long, 4 mm. wide near the base. Column stout, arcuate, about 7.8 mm. long at the back, continued into a short foot in front.

*Maxillaria chartacifolia* is allied to *M. crassifolia* Reichb. f., but it differs markedly from that plant in its thin papery leaves, relatively elongate scapes and somewhat larger flowers which are of a different color. The densely imbricating, punctate leaf-sheaths are also unusual.

The description was made from dried specimens.

COSTA RICA, Province of Guanacaste, La Tejona, North of Tilarán, *Paul C. Standley & Juvenal Valerio 45989*, January 25, 1926. 600–700 meters altitude. "On tree; flowers dull purple-red." (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 33598); *Standley & Valerio 46018*, "Flowers dull brownish-red"; *Standley & Valerio 46002*. (This collection has only very old and imperfect flowers, but it is obviously the same species.)