

Maxillaria foldatsiana Carnevali et I. Ramírez,
sp. nov. TYPE: Venezuela. Bolívar: Uaipante-
pui, 1,200 m, T. Koyama & G. Agostini
7378 (holotype, VEN). Figure 1A, B.

Species haec *M. auyantepuiensis* affinis, sed differt: labello triplo longiore quam latiore (duplo longiore quam latiore in *M. auyantepuiensis*) et lobulo medio conspicue unguiculato (subsessili in *M. auyantepuiensis*).

Apparently epiphytic, erect herbs, 27–30 cm high. Rhizome abbreviated with aggregated pseudobulbs. Pseudobulbs narrowly ovoid, 4.7–5 cm long, 1.3–1.6 cm wide at their broadest, monophyllous, concealed by appressed, scarious sheaths. Leaves coriaceous, erect, narrowly elliptic, acute, basally attenuate into a subcylindric pseudopetiole 4–4.5 cm long, leaf total length 23–24.5 cm, the blade 18.5–20 cm long, 2.3–2.6 cm wide. Inflorescences originating from the pseudobulb base, flowers solitary; peduncle subterete, entirely concealed by 4–5 tubulose, scarious sheaths, 3–5 cm long. Flowers medium-sized for the genus, apparently vertically erect. Perianth segments scarcely open. Floral bracts elliptic, acute, 1.4–1.5 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide. Pedicellate ovary apparently subcylindric, 15–17 mm long. Dorsal sepal narrowly oblong-elliptic, acute, 20–20.5 mm long, 4–4.5 mm wide. Lateral sepals narrowly triangular, acute, 20–21 mm long, basally 3.5–4 mm wide. Petals narrowly elliptic, slightly obovate, acute or narrowly obtuse, 19 mm long, 4–4.5 mm wide. Labellum parallel to the column, in general outline narrowly oblong, 17–18 mm long, 4.5 mm wide at its broadest, slightly pandurate-trilobate above the middle; central lobe elliptic, obtuse-rounded, slightly concave, 7 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, basally attenuate in a short unguiculus about 2 mm long and wide, the narrowly oblong longitudinal callus apically rounded and centrally concave, 7 mm long, 0.8 mm wide. Column straight or slightly recurvate, hemicylindric, ventrally concave, 8 mm long and 2 mm wide at the thickened apical zone. Clinandrium apiculate.

This species is very similar to *M. auyantepuiensis*, from which it differs in its inflorescences longer than the pseudobulb (vs. subequal or shorter), narrowly elliptic floral bracts (vs. widely elliptic), petals to 4.5 mm wide (vs. at least 6 mm in *M. auyantepuiensis*), and conspicuously narrower labellum

(in *M. auyantepuiensis* it is approximately twice as long as wide vs. more than three times longer than wide in *M. foldatsiana*). Further, the labellum of *M. foldatsiana* is less trilobulate. As *M. foldatsiana* is only known from the type collection, and the differences between the two species are not deep, we feel that more material may show *M. foldatsiana* to be only a variation of *M. auyantepuiensis*. However, we have studied many specimens of *M. auyantepuiensis* (alive and dried) and have never noticed intergradation in the differential characters, so we think that they are best treated as closely related but distinct species.

This apparently scarce species has been collected only once despite repeated collecting trips to the summits of the tepuis in the last ten years. Perhaps it is endemic to Uaipantepui.

We take great pleasure in naming this species after our friend and colleague Dr. Ernesto Foldats, orchidologist. He was the first to notice the new species as undescribed.

Maxillaria auyantepuiensis is very common in the Gran Sabana, in southeastern Bolívar, Venezuela. Surprisingly, it is seldom collected. This species comprises two infraspecific taxa, one of which has remained undescribed.

Maxillaria auyantepuiensis subsp. *auyantepuiensis* is terrestrial or lithophytic, always growing on sandy soils or on acid sandstone, forming large colonies in more or less open places as scrub or savannalike tepui formations. It is usually exposed to full sun or resides under the light shade of shrubs. Occasionally it reaches the gallery forest margin or even its interior, provided there is enough light and is always over sandstone outcrops or sandy soil. Morphologically, *M. auyantepuiensis* subsp. *auyantepuiensis* is highly variable with fusiform to (rarely) spherical pseudobulbs and sessile to long-petiolate leaves. The sheaths that conceal the pseudobulb do not defibrate but remain intact. The inflorescences vary from shorter than to longer than the pseudobulb and are always conspicuously peduncled. The flowers are held in an upright or suberect posture. The perianth segments are relatively long and narrow with petals 18–19 mm long, 4.3–4.5 mm wide (width/length = 0.38–0.42) the dorsal sepal is 20–21 mm long and 3.5 mm wide (width/length = 0.16–0.17).