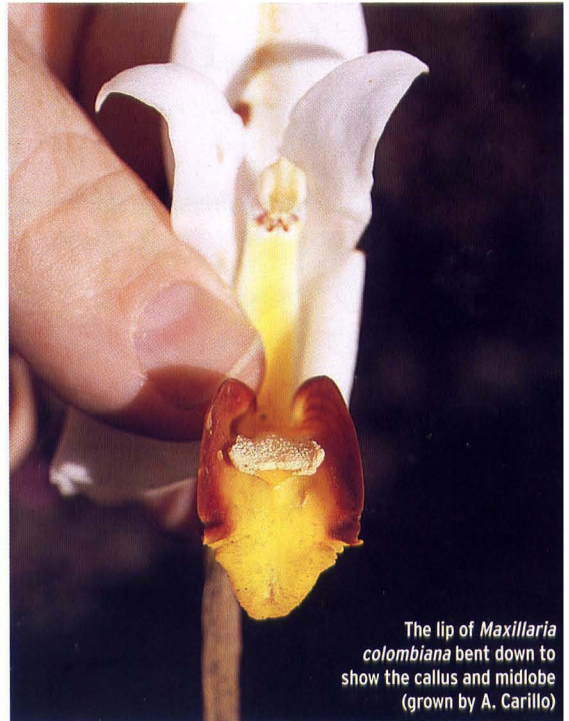
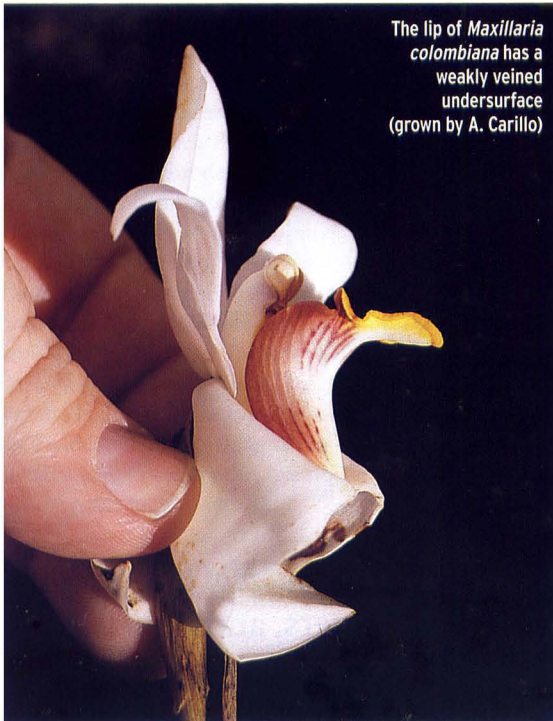


Maxillaria colombiana

Christenson, sp. nov.

Species haec *Maxillaria fletcheriana*
Rolfe similis sed floribus coloribus,
labello nonundulato differt

Type: Colombia. Dept. Cauca,
El Tambo, western slopes of Cerro
Munchique, c.2,200m, 24 Jun
1971, P. Ortiz V. 478 (holotype:
HPUJ [006062])



Description of *M. colombiana*

Caespitose terrestrials. **Pseudobulbs** elliptic-ovoid, compressed, 6 x 2cm, subtended by foliaceous bracts, the sheaths to 8.5cm long, the blades to 20 x 2.8cm.

Leaves one, lanceolate, petiolate, acuminate, the petioles to 12.5cm long, the blades to 32 x 3.8cm.

Inflorescences erect scapes to 38cm long, the floral bracts 4.5cm long, subequal to the ovaries.

Flowers leathery, fragrant of soap with faint melon tones, the sepals and petals white, the sepals sometimes purple suffused at the apex, the lip yellow with sharply defined reddish-brown sidelobes, the undersurface mostly unmarked or faintly purple-veined, the undersurface of the column yellow.

Dorsal sepal elliptic, acute, concave along the midvein, strongly keeled in back, sometimes with revolute lateral margins, 4.8 x 2.3cm, the

lateral sepals ovate, acute-carinate, recurved above the middle, 5.3 x 2.6cm.

Petals ovate, acute, slightly oblique, 4 x 1.4cm. **Lip** 3-lobed, 2.3cm long in natural position, the sidelobes elliptic, erect-incurved, the midlobe broadly triangular, obtuse, rigid-fleshy, grooved above, keeled below, the callus broadly rectangular, subtruncate, covered with farinaceous trichomes, 1.2 x 1cm, from the base of the lip to below the base of the midlobe.

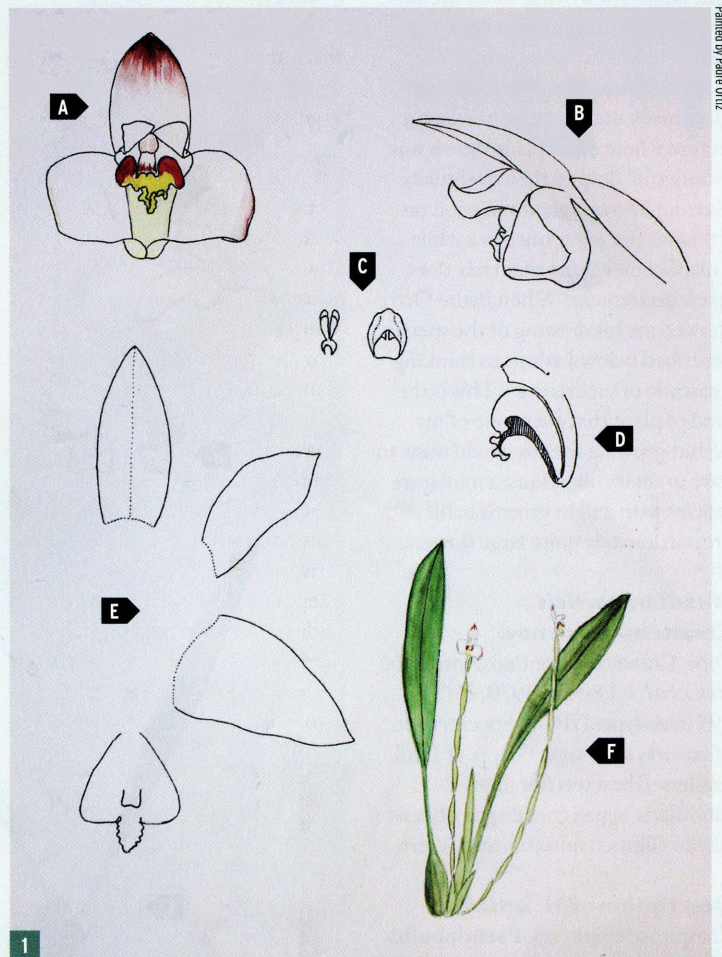
Column arching, 1.9cm long; the column foot conspicuous, c.2.7cm long; the clinandrium irregularly serrulate-fimbriate; the anther with a central crest, 0.7 x 0.5cm.

Pedicel and ovary 4.7cm long.

Etymology Named for the country of Colombia.

Paratype Colombia. Dept. Cauca, El Tambo, La Romelia, Parque Natural Nacional Munchique, 2,600–2,800m, 5 Aug 1980, G. Lozano 3683 (COL)

MAXILLARIA COLOMBIANA



A whole flower **B** whole flower sideview **C** pollinaria and anther cap
D lip and column **E** sepals, petal and lip **F** whole plant

Species similar to *M. colombiana*

Plants of *Maxillaria colombiana* in bud or those preserved as herbarium specimens in a manner that obscures the lip would most likely be mistaken for the more widespread *Maxillaria fletcheriana* due to the combination of tall flowering scape and elongate column foot. Prior to the recognition of *M. colombiana*, *M. fletcheriana* was unique in the complex for these characters. In addition, *M. colombiana* consistently has a distinctly coloured lip with a clear yellow midlobe and

sharply contrasting maroon sidelobes.

Maxillaria colombiana is beautifully illustrated with a large colour photograph in Escobar (1991), as *M. buebschii* Rchb.f. This image clearly illustrates the prominent column foot. True *M. buebschii* differs by having suborbicular lateral sepals, a strong fragrance of peaches or melons without any soap odours, a shorter column foot, and a pair of purple blotches on the undersurface of the lip at the base of the midlobe. I have no definite record of *M. buebschii* for Colombia at this time.