

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

FIGURE 1.

TYPE: PANAMA. Prov. Veraguas: Vicinity of Continental Divide, third branch of Río Santa María to drop-off to lowlands, 12–15 km NW of Santa Fe, 650–750 m, 16–17 Nov 1974, *R. L. Dressler 4839* (Holotype: SEL).

Species affinis *Maxillariae pachyacroni* Schltr. sed foliis latioribus, floribus minoribus, albis, et ovarii brevioribus distinguitur.

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, sometimes densely so, 10–30 cm high. **Stems** approximate; roots slender, to 1 mm in diameter. **Pseudobulbs** ovoid, laterally compressed, 2–3 cm long, usually concealed by 1–3 subtending, foliaceous, and long petiolate sheaths. **Leaves** long petiolate; petiole $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ the blade, abruptly narrowed above the articulation; blade elliptic, usually broadly so, 5–13 × 2–5 cm, acute and apiculate. **Inflorescence** 1 per rhizome bract; scape 3.5–8 cm long, concealed by acute scape bracts; ovary 1–2.2 cm long, somewhat warty, subtended and much exceeded by a cucullate, acute floral bract. **Flowers** campanulate, white turning tan with age, with ivory to light yellow lip. **Sepals**, lanceolate, attenuate, acute, 30–45 × 6–8 mm; the laterals forming a chin 5–7 mm long. **Petals** lanceolate, attenuate, acute, 25–40 × 4–6 mm. **Lip** oblong, simple to lightly 3-lobate on the upper $\frac{1}{3}$, ca. 12 × 5 mm when spread; lateral lobes slightly embracing the column; midlobe deltoid, verrucose,

with recurved apex; callus a ligule from the base to above the middle, swollen in front. **Column** 7 mm long, 11 mm including foot, foot 4–5 mm long, operculum 2 mm long, somewhat hidden from the broadened, dentate anther bed; pollinia 4, supported on a saddle-shaped viscidium and stipe. **Fruit** a capsule, 4.5–6 cm long.

PARATYPES: COSTA RICA. Prov. Alajuela: La Virgen del Socorro, 700–900 m, 27 Aug 1978, *C. Todzia 415* (CR). PANAMA. Comarca de San Blas: Cerro Habū, vicinity of peak, 2500 ft, *K. Sytsma et al. 2735* (MO). Prov. Bocas del Toro: Oleoducto Road, near Continental Divide, Fortuna Dam area, 1000 m, 5 Feb 1984, *H. W. Churchill et al. 4553* (MO). Prov. Coclé: Aseradero El Copé N of El Copé, stream east of sawmill, downstream, 700–800 m, 3 Nov 1980, *R. L. Dressler 5974* (FLAS). Hills north of El Valle de Antón, ca. 800 m, 9 Oct 1972, *R. L. Dressler 4232* (FLAS). Prov. Darien: Vicinity of upper gold mining camp of Tyler Kittredge on headwaters of Río Tuquesa ca 2 air km from Continental Divide, *T. B. Croat 27239* (MO). Prov. Panamá: La Eneida, region of Cerro Jefe, 1 Jan 1968, *R. L. Dressler 3304* (FLAS). Prov. Veraguas: From third branch of Río Santa María to drop-off to Calovébora, 12–15 km NW of Santa Fe, elev. 650–750 m, 4 Sep 1975, *R. L. Dressler 5146* (FLAS). Near third branch of Río Santa María, 10–14 km. NW of Santa Fe, 650–750 m, 10–11 Oct 1975, *R. L. Dressler 5159* (FLAS).

ETYMOLOGY: Named after the white flowers.

Maxillaria chionantha is an epiphyte of premontane evergreen forests at 600–1000 m elev. Two available specimens from Coclé and Darien, Panama are larger than those from eastern Panama and Costa Rica but have identical flowers. It closely resembles *M. pachyacron* Schltr. which has usually longer inflorescences and larger flowers with more attenuate segments and with much more distinctly 3-lobate lip on the upper

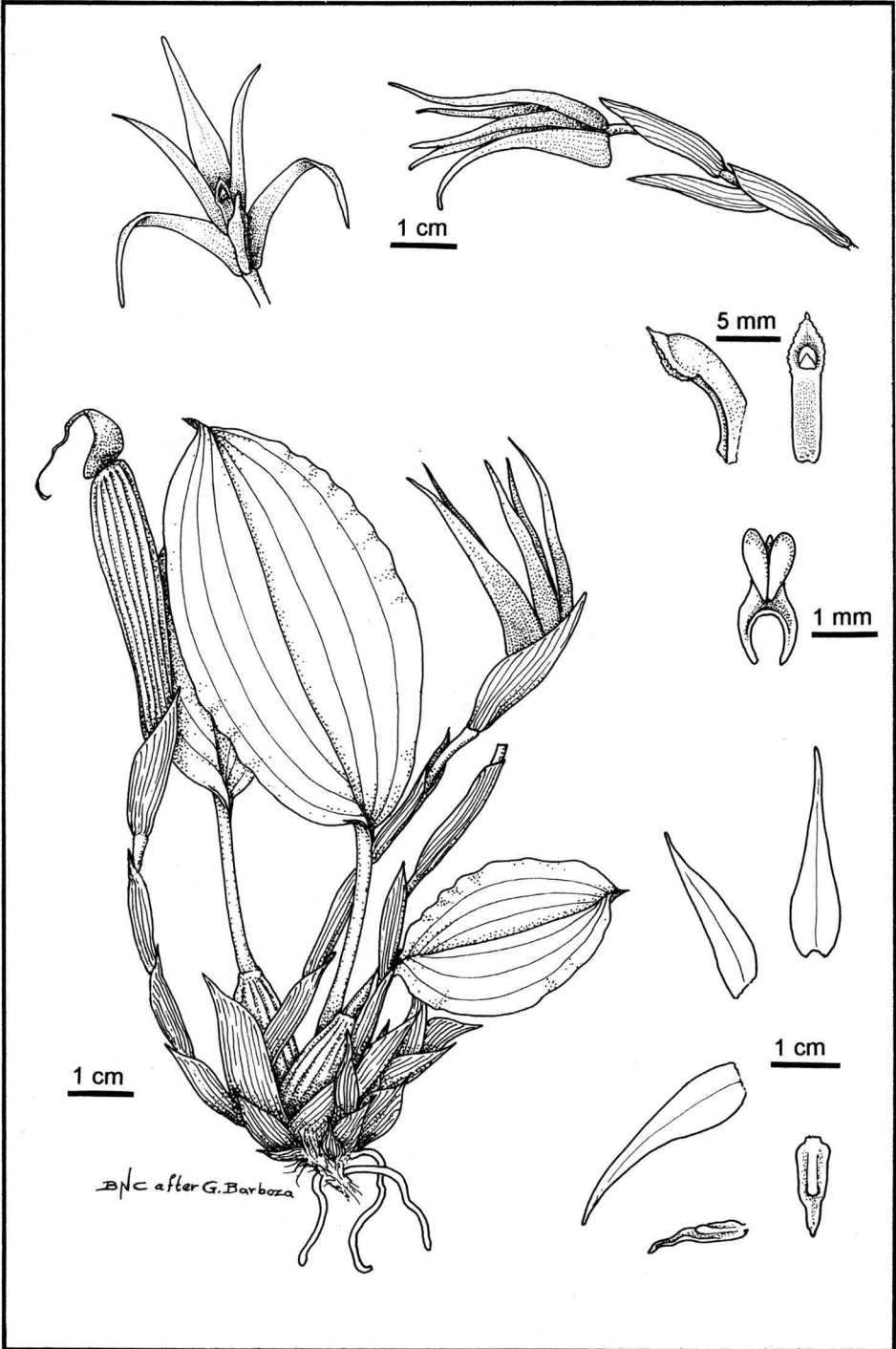


FIGURE 1. *Maxillaria chionantha* J.T. Atwood. Illustration: Barbara Culbertson; habit after Gabriel Barboza.

$\frac{1}{6}$. *Maxillaria pachyacron* also has shorter pseudobulbs and grows at higher elevations. *Maxillaria chionantha* is also closely related to *Maxillaria attenuata* Ames & C.Schweinf., a species also with distinctly petiolate leaves, attenuate floral segments and nearly simple lip, but is easily distinguished by the larger plant, larger and white flowers, rather than the red to maroon flowers of the latter species. The description as well as illustration of the flower by Barbara Culbertson is based in part on spirit-preserved material from live accession at Selby Gardens collected in western Panama by R. L. Dressler (SEL 1993-0202A).