

Maxillaria confusa A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba *Maxillariae pachyacro* Schltr. similis. Planta nana, caespitosa. Pseudobulbi parvi, monophylli. Folium elliptico-oblongum. Pedunculi uniflori, pluribracteati. Flos magnus. Sepala similia, anguste triangulari-lanceolata, elongata, lateralia obliqua. Petala sepalis lateralibus similia sed minora. Labellum trilobatum, expansum obovato-oblongum, medio callo ornatum. Mentum conspicuum.

Plant vegetatively small for the genus, about 13 cm. tall, apparently caespitose. Roots numerous, fibrous, flexuous, branched. Pseudobulbs monophyllous, mostly concealed by a pair of basally imbricating distichous leaf-bearing sheaths, complanate-cylindric, about 1.6 cm. long, finely rugose when dry. Leaf elliptic-oblong, stoutly petioled; petiole laterally flattened, channelled, 1–2.2 cm. long; blade 10 cm. long, 2.2 cm. wide in the middle (leaves on the sheaths much smaller), rounded or perhaps acute at the apex (tip split and broken in our specimens), cuneate-narrowed below, coriaceous, the mid-nerve sulcate above and conspicuously carinate beneath. Inflorescence much shorter than the leaves. Peduncles 1-flowered, about 4.5 cm. long (including the ovary), filiform, with four tubular sheaths, the uppermost clasping and exceeding the ovary. Flower large for the plant, erect, perianth segments parallel, and but very

slightly spreading. Lateral sepals narrowly triangular-lanceolate, 2.04 cm. long, about 7.2 mm. wide at the oblique base (measured along the column-foot), abruptly acute at the very apex, many-nerved, forming with the column-foot a prominent mentum which is about 7 mm. long. Dorsal sepal similar, triangular-ligulate, about 2 cm. long, 4.9 mm. wide near the base, acutish, concave below. Petals similar to the lateral sepals but smaller, lanceolate, about 1.8 cm. long, 3.7 mm. wide below, obliquely inserted on the column. Labellum relatively small, in natural position erect with its sides upcurving, when expanded obovate-oblong in outline, sharply 3-lobed near the apex, 1.21 cm. long, 6 mm. wide near the apex, in the middle a fleshy lingulate sulcate callus which extends in two lines toward the base; lateral lobes semiobovate, broadly rounded with irregular margins above; terminal lobe suborbicular-quadrate, about 2.6 mm. long and a little broader, with a large fleshy thickening in the centre of the under surface. Column extended into a long foot; free part very short and stout, about 4 mm. long, a short narrow fimbriate-lacerate wing at the summit.

Maxillaria confusa has several very close allies. It has considerably smaller flowers than and somewhat different lip characters from *M. pachyacron* Schltr., which appears doubtfully separable (differing apparently only in absence of papillae on the lip) from *M. Reichenheimiana* Endres & Reichb. f. It also has flowers which are different in color from those of *M. Reichenheimiana*. From *M. ringens* Reichb. f. (in which species the flowers are similar in size to those of *M. pachyacron* and *M. Reichenheimiana*) *M. confusa* is distinguishable by its smaller flowers, long mentum, shorter callus on the lip, and by its lacerate-margined androclinium.

COSTA RICA, Peralta, C. II. *Lankester* 908, June 25, 1924. Flower white. Common in forest zone of the Atlantic slope. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 28689.)