

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

FIGURE 2.

TYPE: PANAMA. Prov. Darien: Cerro Pirre, valley between Pirre and next most southerly peak, 10–20 Jul 1977, *Folsom 4412* (Holotype: MO; Isotype: SEL).

A *Maxillariae ampliflorae* C.Schweinf. affinis sed floribus minoribus, labelli lobis brevioribus distinguitur.

Plant an upright or decumbent cane forming epiphyte of unknown height but probably large; base of plant unknown. Stems to about 1 cm in diameter, roots to about 1 mm in diameter. Pseudobulbs compressed, ovoid, ca. 5×2.5 cm ($N = 1$), mostly concealed by subtending, smooth, foliaceous sheaths, somewhat furrowed when dry, apically 1-foliate. Leaves increasing in size

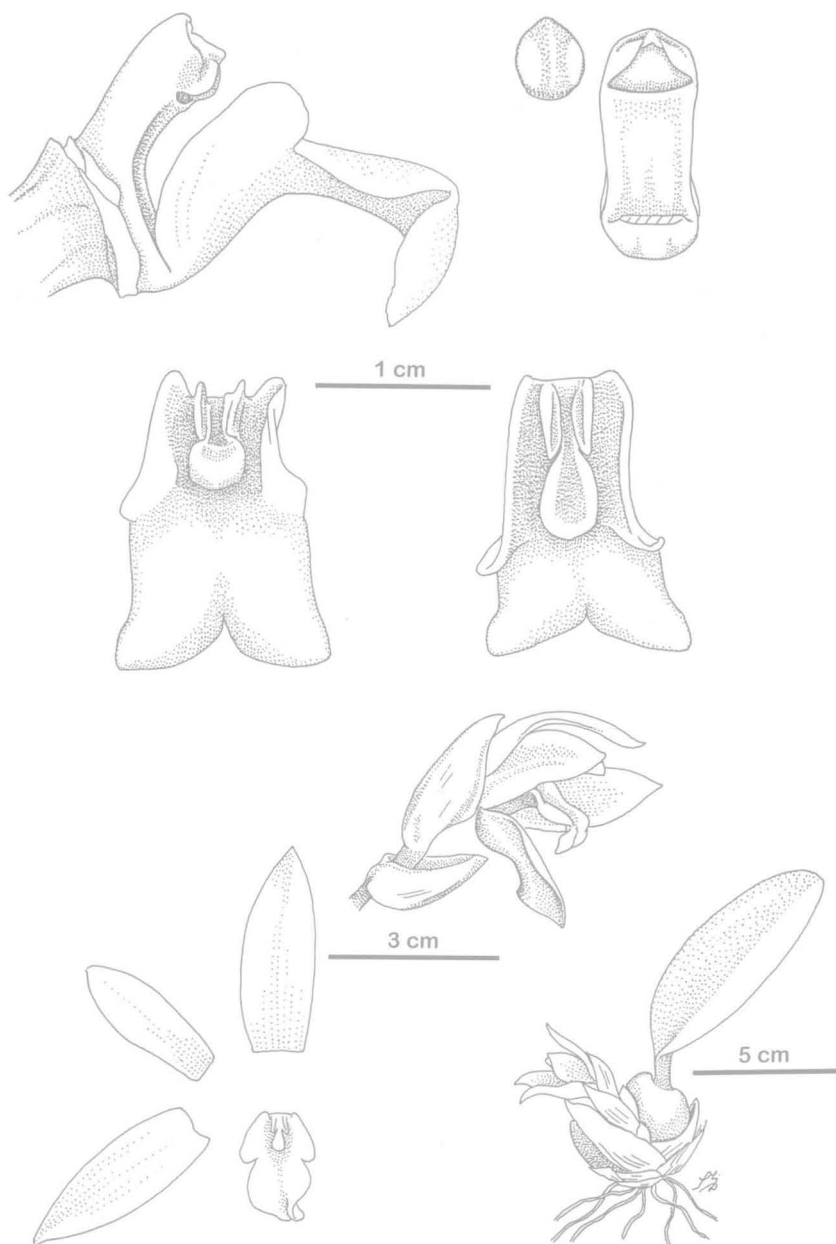


FIGURE 1. *Maxillaria cacaoensis* J.T. Atwood. Drawn by S. Dalström based on *Mora* 60 (SEL).

towards the apex of each shoot, soon deciduous below; petiole short or long, not abruptly narrowed above the somewhat oblique articulation; blade thin, elliptic, $2\text{--}23 \times 1\text{--}3.5$ cm, obtuse to rounded. Inflorescences appearing in the flush of new growth, each subtended by a half lyre shaped rhizome bract; scape $4\text{--}6$ cm loosely concealed by conduplicate scape bracts; ovary

$9\text{--}11$ mm long, exceeded by the conduplicate, acute floral bract $1.5\text{--}1.75$ cm long. Flowers campanulate, according to collectors white, or sepals and petals white with pink band centrally, lip white and yellow with reddish outline; probably turning yellow with age (*de Nevers et al.* 5524). Sepals similar, elliptic-lanceolate, $2\text{--}2.4 \times 0.6\text{--}0.8$ cm, acuminate; laterals forming a

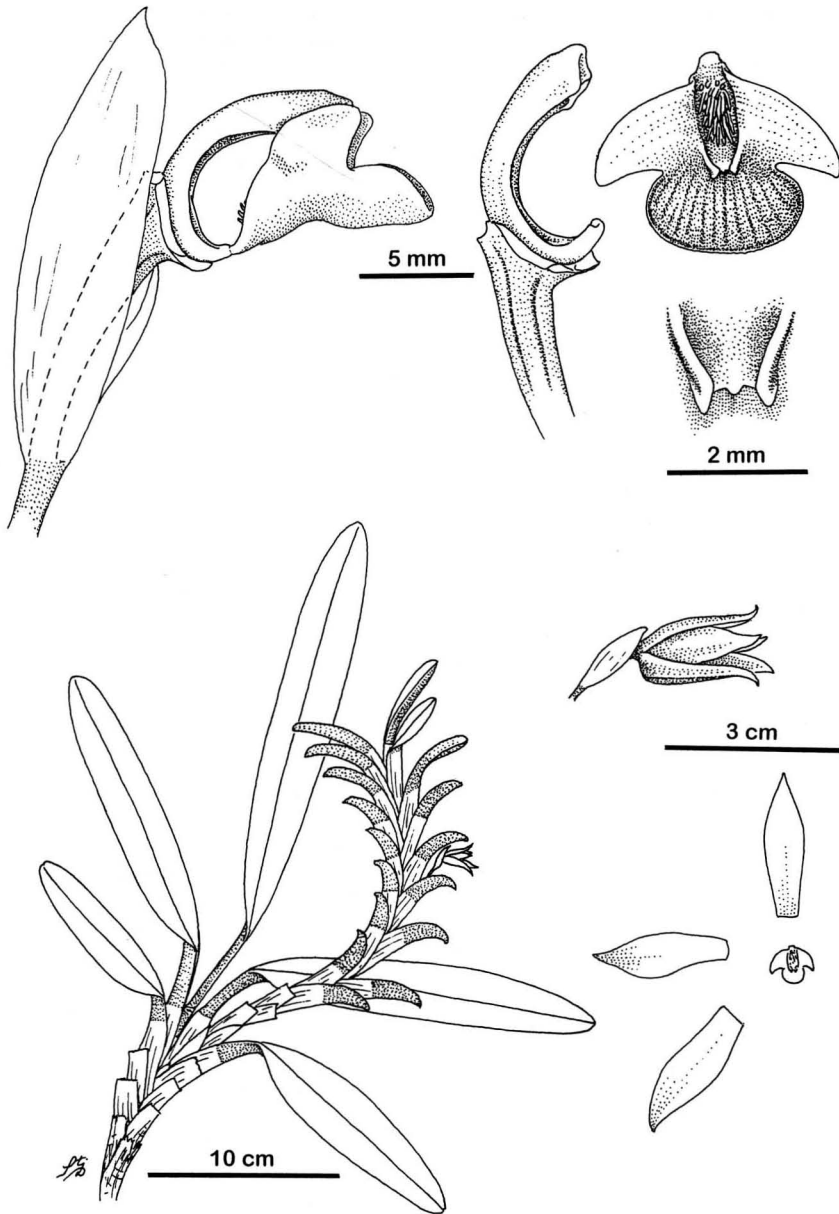


FIGURE 2. *Maxillaria darienensis* J.T. Atwood. Drawn by S. Dalström: plant habit based on *Folsom* 6335 (MO); floral diagnosis based on *Folsom* 4412 (SEL).

mentum ca. 3 mm long. Petals elliptic-oblan-
ceolate, ca. 2.1×0.55 cm, acuminate. Lip about as
broad as long, $7-9 \times 7-9$ mm when spread, 3-
lobate on the upper $\frac{1}{2}$; lateral lobes somewhat
embracing the column, falcate, bluntly acute in
front; midlobe semiorbicular ca. 3.5 mm across,
somewhat fleshy with moderately inrolled mar-
gin; callus fleshy terminating at the base of the

midlobe, tuberculate towards the base. Column
arching, slightly broadened above, 8 mm long
excluding foot (ca. 2.5 mm) and anther. Capsule
unknown.

PARATYPES: Comarca de San Blas: Cerro
Brewster, 850 m, Premontane rain forest, *de*
Neve, et al. 5524 (MO). Prov. Darien: Ridge top

area north of Cerro Pirre, between Cerro Pirre top and Rancho Plastico, 1,200–1,400 m, *Folsom*, *Contrerra*, and *Brijilio* 6335 (MO).

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the province, Darien, in which the type collection was made.

Maxillaria darienensis is known only in eastern Panama, although reports of *M. bradeorum* (Schltr.) L.O. Williams and *M. ampliflora* C. Schweinf. from Colombia and Ecuador may be based on this species. It is most similar to *M. ampliflora* but is somewhat intermediate in size with *M. bradeorum*, a species with usually more purple-saturated flowers and with proportionately longer and sharply acute lateral lobes. Both *M. ampliflora* and *M. bradeorum* are sympatric in western Panama and Costa Rica where no hybrids have been recorded. Little is known of *M. darienensis*. It belongs to a group of species long ago classified in the genus *Camaridium* characterized by large plants with canes sometimes more than 2 m high and usually ephemeral flowers. According to herbarium records *M. darienensis* is a mid elevation species (850–1,400 m) of premontane and lower montane rain forests.