

***Maxillaria erecta* Christenson, sp. nov.**

Type: Colombia. Dept. Chocó, Mun. San José del Palmar, Alto de Galápagos, 1600-1750 m, 12 Nov 1985, G. Lozano, C. I. Orosco, P. Franco & G. Galeano 4960 (holotype: COL).

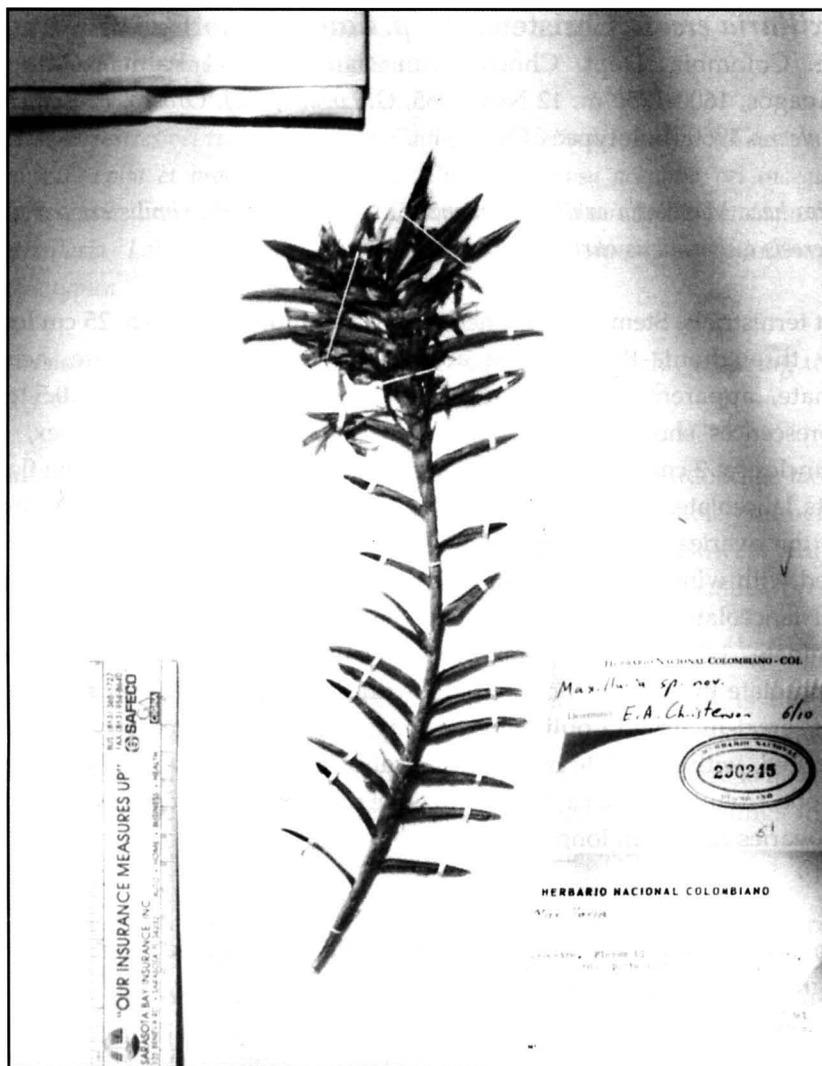
Species haec Maxillaria exaltata (Kraenzlin) C. Schweinfurth similis est sed foliis numerosis uniformibus curtis differt.

Erect terrestrials. Stems unbranched, appearing monopodial, ca. 25 cm long, leafy throughout. Pseudobulbs absent. Leaves linear-lanceolate, acute-carinate, apparently strongly folded along the midvein, 4 x 0.5 cm. Inflorescences short axillary scapes densely clustered at stem apex, the peduncles ca. 2 cm long, the peduncular bracts linear, 1.2 cm long, the floral bracts lanceolate, acute, much broader than the peduncular bracts, longer than the ovaries, 1.5 cm long. Flowers ca. 20, the sepals and petals white tinged with wine purple, the lip white with a blackish purple apex. Dorsal sepal lanceolate, acute, 1.6 x 0.3 cm, the lateral sepals oblong-triangular, acuminate, 1.8 x 0.4 cm. Petals linear, acute, 1.4 x 0.2 cm. Lip 3-lobed, oblanceolate in outline from a tapered-cuneate base, 1 x 0.4 cm, the lateral lobes erect-incurved, obliquely oblong, obtuse, the midlobe oblong, thickened, with crenulate margins, the callus abrupt, below the base of the midlobe. Column short, ca. 0.4 cm long, the column foot 0.5 cm long. Pedicels and ovaries ca. 1.2 cm long.

Fig. 1

Etymology: From the Latin *erectus*, meaning erect, named for the strict upright habit of the species.

The flowers in this group of species represent rather similar variations on a theme. The plants, however, can be quite distinctive. *Maxillaria erecta* differs from all other species in having quite short leaves that are uniform in size and evenly spaced along the length of the growth. Other species have significantly longer leaves that show some graduation in size from the base to the apex of each growth, and in *M. embreei* a tight clustering of the leaves toward the apex. The overall effect is that *M. erecta* resembles certain species of *Dendrobium* or *Epidendrum* more than it does other species of *Maxillaria*.



**Fig. 1. Holotype of *Maxillaria erecta* Christenson
(Lozano et al. 1960, COL!)**