

A NOVELTY IN TYPICAL MAXILLARIA FROM PERU

CHARLES SCHWEINFURTH

THE FOLLOWING neat little plant is the first of a number of undescribed *Maxillarias* recently found in a collection from Peru.

Maxillaria is one of the largest of the tropical American genera of orchids. It extends from Florida and Mexico, through Central America, the West Indies and South America to Brazil and Argentina. As should be expected from such a large and widely dispersed group, the range of variation within the genus is enormous, probably second only to that seen in the even larger genus *Epidendrum*.

The present species belongs to the group of typical *Maxillarias* which is characterized by having an apparently abbreviated rhizome, a shortened bulbous stem or pseudobulb and a lateral, basal, 1-flowered inflorescence.

Maxillaria grandimentum C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.

Herba parva, pseudobulbosa. Pseudobulbus in sicco ovoideo-cylindraceus, unifolius, basi vaginis duabus triangularibus concavis circumdatus. Folium petiolatum; lamina elliptico-oblonga, acuta vel breviter acuminata, basi cuneata; petiolus brevis, conduplicatus. Scapus perbrevis, late patens, vaginis paucis ventricosis omnino obtectus. Flos mediocris. Sepalum dorsale late oblongum, subacutum, naviculare. Sepala lateralia oblique lanceolato-oblonga, acuta et apiculata, cum columnae pedem mentum conspicuum formantia. Petala oblique lanceolata, breviter acuminata. Labellum erectum, arcuato-recurvum, prope apicem trilobatum; lobi laterales erecti, apice brevi libero rotundato; lobus medius parvus, anguste oblongus, valde incrassatus, marginibus revolutis. Columna brevis, crassa, clavata, in pedem conspicuum extensa.

Plant small, about 13 cm. tall. Roots fibrous, glabrous. Pseudobulb ovoid-cylindric and densely rugose in the dried specimen, apparently compressed, unifoliate at the oblique apex, about 1.7 cm. high, surrounded and surpassed by a pair of distichous oblong-triangular concave sheaths. Leaf petioled; lamina elliptic-oblong, acute or short-acuminate, cuneate below, about 9.7 cm. long and 1.8 cm. wide, coriaceous, dull above, whitened beneath, with the mid-nerve sulcate above and carinate beneath; petiole conduplicate, about 1.5 cm. long. Scape abbreviated, lateral, basal, widely spreading, invested by four or five ventricose imbricating sheaths, about 1.5 cm. long. Flower small but large for the plant, rather fleshy. Dorsal sepal broadly oblong, navicular, subacute, about 1.6 cm. long and 6 mm. wide when expanded. Lateral sepals obliquely lanceolate-oblong, abruptly acute and apiculate, long-adnate to the column-foot at the base forming a prominent mentum, about 1.7 cm. long and 7.8 mm. wide at the base. Petals obliquely lanceolate, short-acuminate, about 1.5 cm. long and 5.8 mm. wide near the base. Lip erect, parallel to the column, arcuate-recurved and about 1.4 cm. long in natural position, sessile; lateral lobes erect, narrowly semiobovate, terminating in a short rounded free apex, about 1.1 cm. long; mid-lobe relatively small, very fleshy especially through the middle, narrowly oblong, with revolute membranaceous margins and recurved subtruncate apex; disc in the middle with a linear-oblong fleshy callus which is obscure toward the base. Column small, stout, clavate and lightly arcuate when viewed from the side, concave in front, about 7.2 mm. long at the back, with the narrow erose-margined clinandrium, produced into a slightly longer foot.

MAXILLARIA

grandimentum
C. Schweinf.



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE

FIGURE 1, habit, $\times 1$. FIG. 2, flower, spread out, $\times 2$. FIG. 3, lip and column, from the side, $\times 3$. FIG. 4, lip, spread out, from above, $\times 3$.

JUNÍN: Chanchamayo Valley, at 1800 meters altitude, November "1924-1927," *Carlos Schunke* 563. (TYPE in Herb. Field Mus. 571621.)

This species is similar to the Ecuadorian *Maxillaria pachyneura* Lehm. & Kränzl., but has broader sepals, longer lip and much longer mentum. — *Botanical Museum, Cambridge* 38, Mass.