

A NEW AND UNUSUAL FORM OF SOUTH AMERICAN MAXILLARIA

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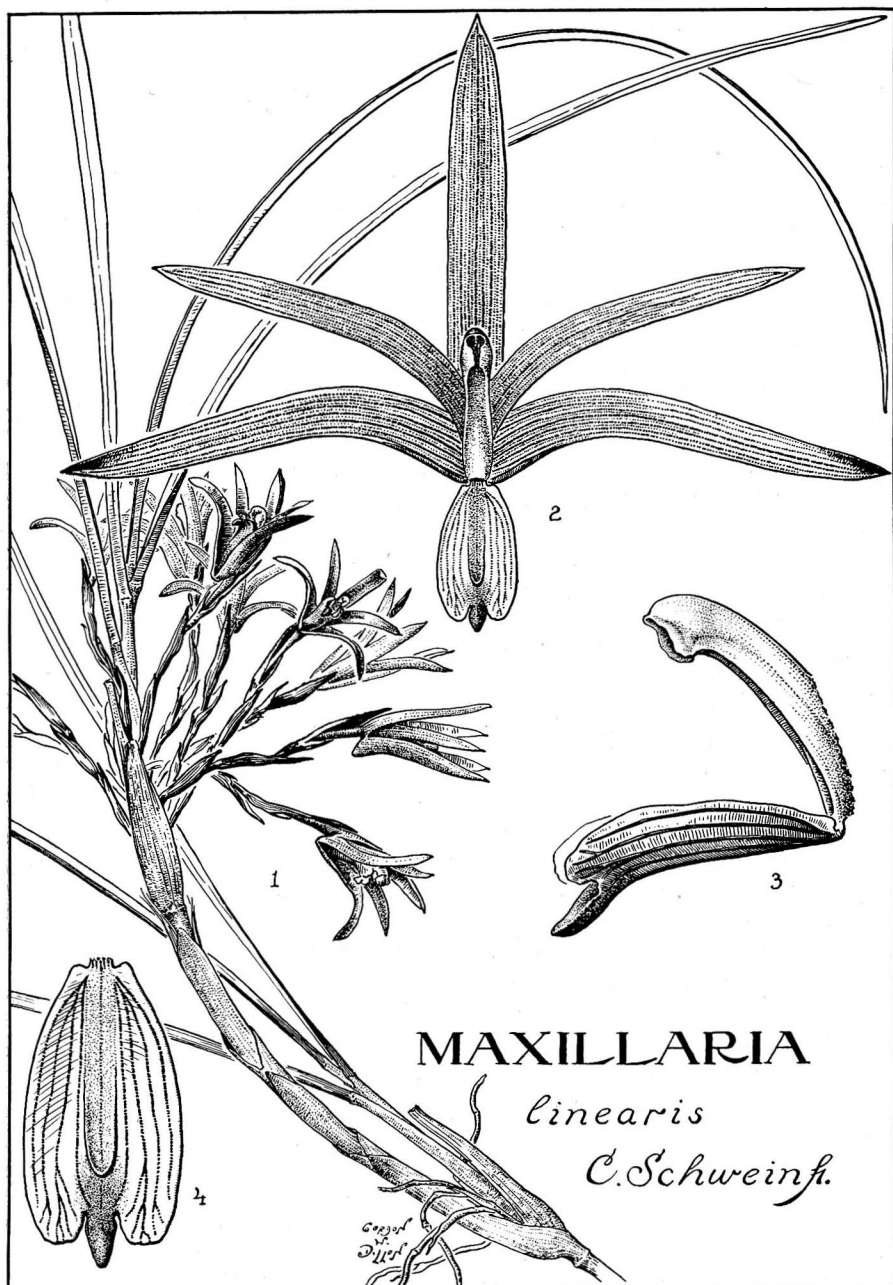
ONE OF THE SEVERAL strikingly dissimilar but well-marked groups that occur in the genus *Maxillaria* is a rather considerable number of species which are destitute of any abruptly thickened stems or pseudobulbs. These plants are characterized by having more or less slender stems concealed by distichous, often leaf-bearing, sheaths.

The following species not only lacks pseudobulbs but is one of a limited group marked by having the sheaths strikingly warty or verrucose, and by having the leaf-blades more or less congested on the upper parts of the stem or branches.

***Maxillaria linearis* C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.**

Herba magna, longicaulina. Caulis vaginis arctis verruculosus imbricatus omnino tectus. Folia in ramis brevibus adpressis atque in caulis summo aggregata, graminea, anguste linearia, coriacea. Inflorescentiae numerosae, e foliorum axillis exortae cum pedunculis distinctis filiformibus patentibus unifloris. Flos arachnitiformis. Sepalum dorsale lineare, acutum. Sepala lateralia oblique linearia, falcata. Petala sepalis lateralibus similia sed multo angustiora. Labellum breve, erectum, prope apicem trilobatum; lobi laterales erecti, angusti, apice rotundati; lobus medius parvus, triangularis, multo incrassatus. Columna parva, in pedem subaequilongum producta.

Plant tall, slender, only the upper portion present in my specimen. Stem terete, arcuate, entirely enveloped by close tubular imbricating verrucose sheaths, about 5 mm. in diameter, bearing at remote intervals short appressed leaf-concealed branches. Leaves apparently four to six in a group, subapproximate at the apex of the stem and on the branches, articulated to imbricating sheaths; lamina grass-like, narrowly linear, acuminate, slightly and gradually narrowed to a conduplicate base, 13.5-40 cm. long, about 5 mm. wide, coriaceous, with the mid-nerve sulcate above and carinate beneath, the margins being revolute in the dried specimen. Inflorescences short, numerous, from the axils of the lower leaf-bearing sheaths near the summit of the stem and on the branches; peduncles lax, spreading, filiform, entirely or mostly concealed by elongate tubular sheaths, about 7 cm. or less long including the pedicellate ovary. Pedicellate ovary slender, concealed and somewhat exceeded by a bract similar to the sheaths of the peduncle. Flowers medium-sized, with spreading nervose segments. Dorsal sepal linear, sharply acute and mucronate, concave at the base, about 2.6 cm. long and 3.5 mm. wide below. Lateral sepals obliquely linear, falcate, complicate-acute, forming with the column-foot a short but prominent mentum, about 2.6 cm. long and 4.2 mm. wide at the base. Petals similar to the lateral sepals but markedly narrower, narrowly linear, lightly falcate, acute, about 2.3 cm. long and 2 mm. wide near the base. Lip short, erect, parallel to the column, gently arcuate-recurved, and about 1 cm. long in natural position, oblong-elliptic when expanded, sessile and minutely auriculate at base, deeply 3-lobed near the apex; lateral lobes erect, narrowly semielliptic, terminating in a short rounded free part with commonly subtruncate lightly crenulate forward margin; mid-lobe very small, narrowly triangular, very thick and fleshy, about 2 mm. long, slightly surpassing the apices of the lateral lobes; disc provided through the lower two-thirds with a linear thickening that merges into a prominent sulcate callus. Column small, fleshy and abruptly clavate when viewed from the side, about 5 mm. long at the back, produced into a subequally long sulcate foot.



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE

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

JUNÍN: Chanchamayo Valley, at 1800 meters altitude, October "1924-1927," *Carlos Schunke 519* (TYPE in Herb. Field Mus. No. 571578).

This species is allied to *Maxillaria meridensis* Lindl. but differs in its more distinct, spreading peduncles and longer narrower sepals and petals. It has longer narrower sepals and petals than the Bolivian *M. longicaulis* Schltr. with dissimilar mid-lobe of the lip. — *Botanical Museum, Cambridge, Mass.*