

14. **MAXILLARIA MERANA** Dodson, sp. nov.

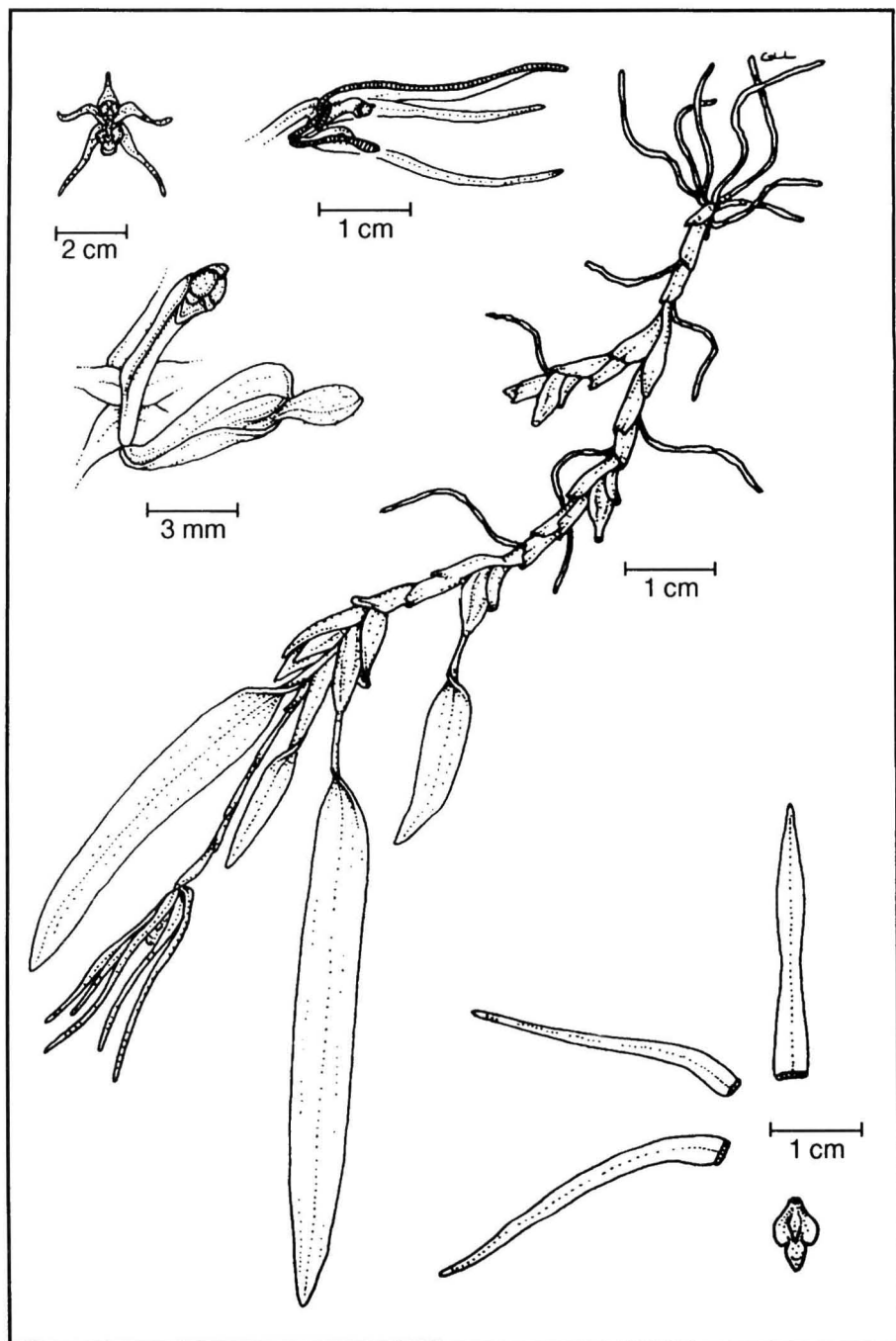
Similis *Maxillariae floribundae* Lindl., a qua distinguitur vaginis infra pseudobulbos non foliaribus, floribus albis labello flavescente, et lobulo medio labelli anguste ovato.

Orig. coll.: Ecuador: Pastaza: Baños to Puyo, Mera, 1050 m, 14 March 1985, *Dodson et al.* 15714 (RPSC holotype, QCNE, QCA).

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada por la región en la cual se recolectó el ejemplar.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the region from which the specimen was collected.

Plant epiphytic, pendant. Stems creeping, much-branched, surrounded by verrucose, imbricating, nonfoliaceous sheaths with pseudobulbs at intervals from 1-3 cm. Pseudobulbs ovate, compressed, rugose, 1- foliate at the apex, the sheaths at the base nonfoliate. Leaves petiolate, oblong-elliptic, acute at the apex, cuneate at the base to the junction with the petiole, to 15 x 1.5 cm; petiole terete, sulcate, 1-2.5 cm long. Inflorescences solitary, 1-flowered, produced from the axils of the sheaths at the base of the pseudobulb, with 2-3 loose sheaths, 1.3 cm long. Flower white with a yellowish lip. Sepals and petals free; dorsal sepal linear-oblong, acute, concave at the base, parallel to the column, to 4 x 0.5 cm; lateral sepals obliquely linear-oblong, acute, erect and parallel to the column, to 4.5 x 0.5 cm; petals linear-ovate, oblique, parallel to the sepals, to 4 x 0.4 cm; lip erect, parallel to the column, elliptic when spread, 3-lobed, to 1.2 x 0.7 cm, the lateral lobes erect on each side of the column, obovate, rounded at the apex, the



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midlobe narrowly ovate, thickened, the callus tongue-like, obtuse at the apex, shorter than the lateral lobes of the lip; column terete, sulcate on the underside, to 0.8 cm long, extended into a prominent foot at the base.

NOTAS: Esta especie pertenece al Grupo Floribunda, pero puede distinguirse de otras especies del grupo por las vainas que soportan los pseudobulbos sin hojas, las flores blancas con un labelo amarillento, y el lóbulo central del labelo angostamente ovado.

NOTES: This species belongs in the Floribunda Group but can be distinguished by the sheaths subtending the Pseudobulbos nonfoliaceous, the white flowers with a yellowish lip, and the narrowly ovate midlobe of the lip.