

***Maxillaria misasii* Christenson, sp. nov.**

TYPE: COLOMBIA. Chocó, Serranía del Baudó, 100 m, G. Misas U. 161 (holotype: HPUJ)

*Species haec Maxillaria conduplicata (Ames et Schweinf.) L. O. Wms. similis sed plantis parvioribus, bracteis florum majoribus, floribus coloribus, petalis brevioribus differt.*

Miniature, laxly pendent epiphytes rooting at the base. Rhizomes elongate, concealed by foliaceous bracts, the blades soon deciduous. Pseudobulbs ellipsoid, lightly compressed, to ca. 1.5 × 0.8 cm, subtended by foliaceous bracts, separated by rhizome segments to ca. 5 cm long. Leaves one, ligulate, obliquely bilobed, strongly conduplicate, to ca. 3.5 × 0.6 cm. Inflorescences numerous, sessile, from the axils of foliaceous bracts associated with new growth, the floral bracts conspicuous, much longer than the ovaries, cupping the back of the flower, to ca. 7 mm long. Flowers campanulate, dark burgundy with scattered translucent spots. Sepals elliptic, obtuse, concave, the dorsal sepal ca. 5 × 3 mm, the lateral sepals ca. 4 × 2 mm. Petals elliptic, broadly obtuse-rounded, ca. 3 × 2 mm. Lip obscurely 3-lobulate, pandurate, constricted about 1/3 from the base, ca. 5 × 3 mm, shallowly subsaccate at the base defined by the erect-incurved

lateral margins (lobules) and callus, the midlobule broadly elliptic-suborbicular, retuse, with the halves inflexed along the midvein, the callus a transverse semicircular ridge across the base of the midlobe. Column stout, ca. 1.5 mm long, the column foot obscure; the anther bilobed; the pollinia 4, obovate, compressed, in two nearly even pairs, attached to a minute stipe.

Etymology: Named for Guillermo Misas Urreta whose book *Orquideas de la Serranía del Baudó* represents a major leap forward in our knowledge of Colombian orchids.

*Maxillaria misasii* is apparently a sister species to *M. conduplicata* (Ames & C. Schweinfurth) L. O. Williams from Costa Rica and Panama. It differs by being much smaller in all its parts (e.g., the pseudobulbs of *M. conduplicata* are ca. 5.5 cm long), having conspicuous floral bracts much longer than ovaries, differently colored flowers (greenish yellow in *M. conduplicata*), and petals shorter than the sepals. Misas reports it as infrequent. He published a line drawing and color photograph of *M. misasii* as *M. densa* "Rchb.f." (p. 350-351), a distinct species from Central America not found in South America or adjacent Panama.

*Maxillaria misasii* is a member of *Maxillaria* section *Ornithidium* (Salisbury ex R. Brown) Christenson (Christenson, 2002) which some authors recognize as the distinct genus *Ornithidium* Salisbury ex R. Brown (Blanco *et al.*, 2007).

The following two species are members of *Maxillaria* section *Polyphyllae* Christenson. Recently it was proposed that this section be elevated to genus status as the genus *Inti* Blanco (Blanco *et al.*, 2007). I take a conservative approach to this action and the other recently proposed segregates which are based primarily on DNA analysis as it gives little new information and just adds to the phenomenal proliferation of names currently obliterating communication among those working at the species level (see Christenson, 2008). The following provides a key to the species:

- 1 Ground color of the flowers white .....2
- 1' Ground color of the flowers yellow or wine-red .....3
- 2(1) Sepals and petals pure white ..... *M. janiceae*
- 2' Sepals and petals white with purple spots .....*M. foetida*

- 3(1') Flowers opening yellow, often becoming reddish-brown with age, the leaves more than 1.5 cm wide, the peduncles 7-13 cm long .....  
.....*M. chartacifolia*
- 3' Flowers opening dark wine-red, the leaves less than 1.4 cm wide, the peduncles 2-4 cm long ..... *M. bicallosa*