

MAXILLARIA RODRIGUEZIANA Atwood & Mora-Retana

Maxillaria rodriguezi Atwood & Mora-Retana, sp. nov. Affine *Maxillariae speciosae*, sed sepalis petalisque paucimaculatis et medilobis brevioribus differt. TYPE: Panama, El Cope *T. Antonio* 2137 (Holotype MO, Isotype SEL).

Plant a large, caespitose epiphyte, the shoots approximate. Roots, white, to 1 mm in diameter. Pseudobulbs ovoid, rugose, unifoliate, 4-5 cm long and 3-4 cm wide, subtended and often hidden from view by the inflated blade-bearing cataphyll base which is usually abruptly narrowed at the articulation. Leaf blades coriaceous, elliptic, obtuse to rounded, 18-30 cm long, 4.5-8 cm wide, supported by a long petiole 5-15 cm long. Inflorescences 14-20 cm tall, mostly hidden by 4-7 inrolled, obtuse bracts 2-6.5 cm long. Ovary with pedicel about 2.5 cm long, concealed by the conspicuous, conduplicate, acute floral bract 5-8 cm long. Flowers creamy white, fragrant, the sepals turning greenish towards the apex, lip base white, apically yellow, and lined on the sides with red. Sepals long attenuate, 12-16 cm long with the dorsal slightly shorter than the lateral sepals, 1.0-1.3 cm wide at the base. Petals long-attenuate, 10-14 cm long, 7-9 mm wide at the base. Lip ovate, 3-lobed on the apical quarter, about 2 cm long and 1.5 cm wide, the midlobe broadly rounded, and somewhat reflexed, the lateral lobes folded up to the column, the callus ligulate, puberulent, to about the half length of the lip. Column cylindric, about 1.5-1.8 cm long, forming a foot 8 mm long at the base; pollinia 4, supported on a saddle-shaped viscidium lacking a stipe.

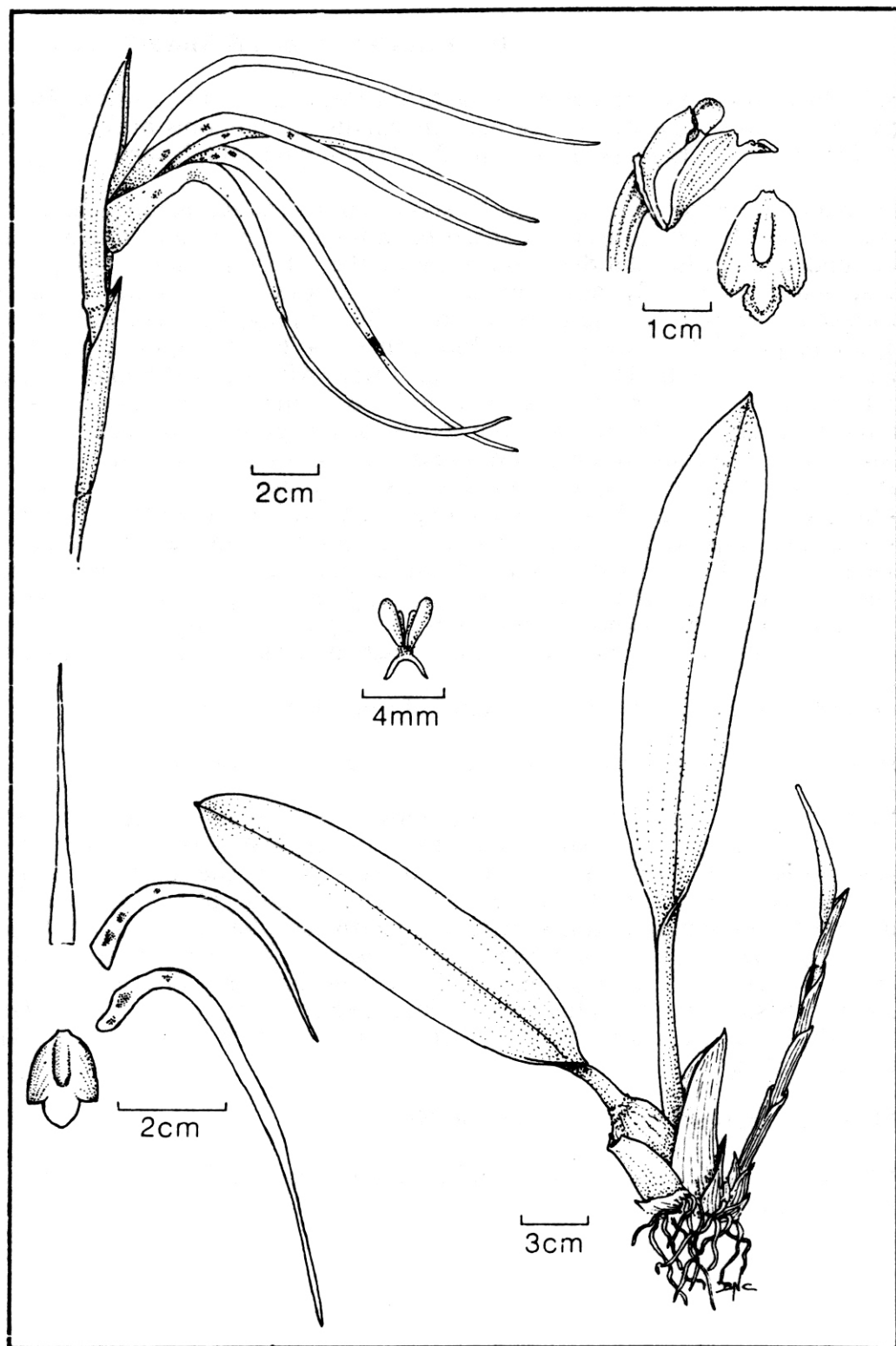
Ecology: Large epiphyte on the trunks of trees in cloud forests.

Distribution: Costa Rica and Panama at moderate elevations.

Notes: This is easily one of the most spectacular of Central American maxillarias. It is easily distinguished from its South American sister species, *M. speciosa* Rchb. f., by the more leathery flowers and by the spotting on the sepals and petals restricted to the lower half. The midlobe of the lip is less than a quarter the lip length in this species and nearly half the lip length in *M. speciosa*. One might regard it as a subspecies of *M. speciosa*, but the consistently different features mentioned, and probable different evolutionary destinies on separate continents supports its status as a distinct species. According to R. L. Dressler, *M. rodriguezi* has a heavy fragrance of cheap perfume which is a bit much in close quarters.

Flowering season: June, October and November.

Illustration vouchers: Plant habit: *T. Antonio* 2137 (MO, SEL); Flower: *Lankester s.n.* (SEL).



MAXILLARIA RODRIGUEZIANA

Text on reverse side

PIATE 1361

Icones Plantarum Tropicarum