

***Maxillaria vallisnerioides* Christenson, *sp. nov.***

Type: Colombia. Comisaria del Caquetá, Cordillera Oriental, forests between Sucre and La Portada, 1200-1350 m, 5 Apr 1940, J. Cuatrecasas 9121 (holotype: COL).

*Species haec Maxillaria linearis C. Schweinfurth similis est sed floribus parvioribus, sepalis petalisque lanceolatis differt.*

Stems apparently unbranched, appearing monopodial, produced in flushes of growth ca. 12-15 cm long, leafy. Pseudobulbs absent. Leaves linear-lanceolate, long tapered-acuminate, to 22 x 0.6 cm. Inflorescences axillary scapes, 2-4 per growth, the peduncles ca. 1.5 cm long, the floral bracts lanceolate, acute, longer than the ovaries, 1.9 cm long. Flowers cupped, color not recorded. Dorsal sepal lanceolate, obtuse, 1.4 x 0.5 cm, the lateral sepals lanceolate-triangular, acute, obliquely inserted on the column foot, 1.6 x 0.6 cm. Petals linear-lanceolate, acuminate, 1.3 x 0.5 cm. Lip 3-lobed, 1.1 x 0.4 cm, narrowly obovate in outline from a cuneate base, the lateral lobes erect-incurved, obliquely oblong, obtuse, the midlobe elliptic, rounded, fleshy with thin undulate margins, the callus abrupt, obtuse, just below the base of the midlobe. Column short, stout, ca. 0.4 cm long, the column foot 0.6 cm long. Pedicels and ovaries 1.2 cm long.

Fig. 2.

Etymology: Named for the superficially resemblance of the plant to the aquatic genus *Vallisneria* (Hydrocharitaceae).

In its long, narrow leaves *M. vallisnerioides* is most similar to the Peruvian *M. linearis*. It differs by having flowers about half the size of *M. linearis* and lanceolate sepals and petals. In *M. linearis* the linear sepals are 2.6 x 0.1 cm. In addition, the leaves of *M. linearis* visually appear to be narrower than those of *M. vallisnerioides* because they grow to almost twice the length, to 40 x 0.5 cm.

Flower color was not recorded for this species but all related species have ivory white or pale yellow flowers with varying amounts of red-purple toward the lip apex.

Finally, *M. vallisnerioides* may also occur in Ecuador based on Whitten 1592 (FLAS).



Fig. 2. Holotype of *Maxillaria vallisnerioides* Christenson  
(Cuatrecasas 9129, COL!)