

Maxillaria vasquezii* E.A. Christenson, *sp. nov.

Maxillaria parvibulbosa, sensu Vásquez & Dodson, *Icones Plantarum Tropicarum*, ser. 1, pl. 556 (1982).

TYPE: BOLIVIA. Dept. Cochabamba, Prov. Carrasco, Mariposas, 230 m, Vásquez 45 (holotype: Herb. Vasquezianum).

Species haec M. parvibulbosa C. Schweinf. similis sed coloribus florum, labello late elliptico, mediolobo pubescenti differt.

Caespitose epiphytes. Pseudobulbs ellipsoid, compressed, to 3.5 x 1.8 cm, subtended by papery bracts. Leaves one, narrowly linear-lanceolate, long-petiolate, to 30 x 3.5 cm. Inflorescences horizontal to suberect scapes to 8 cm long, the floral bracts lanceolate, acute, subequal to or slightly longer than the ovaries. Flowers spidery, the sepals and petals yellow, the lip lateral lobes yellow with maroon-red stripes on the inside, the midlobe dark orange. Dorsal sepal linear-lanceolate, long-acuminate, 3.5 x 0.5 cm, the lateral sepals subsimilar, subfalcate at the base, 3.5 x 0.5 cm. Petals obliquely triangular, long-acuminate, 3 x 0.4 cm. Lip 3-lobed, broadly elliptic in outline, 1.5 x 1 cm, the lateral lobes erect-incurved, obliquely elliptic-ovate, obtuse, the midlobe broadly ovate, obtuse, pubescent, the callus oblong, from the base of the lip to the base of the midlobe. Column stout, curved, 1 cm long, the clinandrium with a low denticulate-crenulate margin, the foot ca. 5 mm long.

Etymology

Named for Roberto Vásquez, expert on the orchids of Bolivia, who collected and illustrated the type specimen.

The type of *M. parvibulbosa* was described as having flowers “white and lilac rose”. A plant from Ecuador flowered by Michael McIlmurray (D-29) has similarly colored flowers. This is very different than the yellow and orange flowers of *M. vasquezii*. The lip of *M. parvibulbosa* is oblong-elliptic in outline (17-19.5 x 6-8 mm based on two specimens) compared to the broadly elliptic lip of *M. vasquezii* (1.5 x 1 cm). Finally, the lip of *M. parvibulbosa* is covered with farinaceous trichomes (not recorded in the type description) unlike the lip of *M. vasquezii* which has a pubescent lip midlobe without farinaceous trichomes.

The recognition of *M. vasquezii* as a distinct species removes the distribution record for *M. parvibulbosa* in Bolivia. It also calls into question whether *M. vasquezii* requires special consideration for conservation efforts. *Maxillaria parvibulbosa* is a more northern species that straddles the Ecuador-Peru border.