

***Maxillaria dichaeoides* Bennett & Christenson, sp. nov.** (Fig. 4)

Species haec Maxillaria ponerantha Reichenbach (1854: 17) *similis sed floribus atropurpureis, petalis trinervis, labello acallosa, anthera non papillosa differt.*

Type:—PERU: San Martín: Along the road in Nieva, *D. Bennett* 8027 (holotype: HAO).

Mat-forming epiphytes. Pseudobulbs ellipsoid, compressed, to 1.5×0.5 cm, separated by rhizome segments of varying length, the rhizomes sheathed with foliaceous bracts subsimilar but slightly smaller than the leaves. Leaves 1–2, 1 being more common, oblong, conduplicate at the base, obliquely bilobed at the apex, 1.7×0.5 cm. Inflorescences subsessile from the axil of sheaths on the developing rhizome. Flowers solitary, not opening widely, intense dark purple. Dorsal sepal elliptic, obtuse, concave, 8×3.1 mm, the lateral sepals obliquely broadly ovate, obtuse, 8×3.5 mm. Petals elliptic from a cuneate base, obtuse, 3-nerved, 7×3 mm. Labellum unlobed, elliptic with low involute lateral margins, truncate-emarginate, very glossy, 7.7×3.6 mm, without a callus. Column arching, slightly dilated toward the apex, 5.5×2 mm long; the anther transverse, minutely verruculose; the pollinia 4, suborbicular, in two tightly appressed pairs. Flowering from August to September but probably throughout the year as growths mature.

Habitat:—Wet montane forest.

Distribution:—At least Ecuador and Peru. Dodson and Dodson's (1980: pl. 153) record for *M. foliosa* Ames & Schweinfurth (1925: 60) in Ecuador is *M. dichaeoides*. The specimen has a labellum without callus.

Etymology:—Named for the remarkable resemblance of the plants to the orchid genus *Dichaea*.

Observations:—This species is distinguished by the *Dichaea*-like growth habit, intensely dark purple flowers, the labellum without callus, and the unadorned anther. It is most closely related to *M. ponerantha* Reichenbach (1854: 17) a species with predominately yellow flowers, a well-defined callus, and an anther with a papillose dorsal ridge. It is also similar to *M. cauae* Garay (1967: 258), a species with dark brown flowers, but that species has a well-defined callus and 5-nerved sepals.

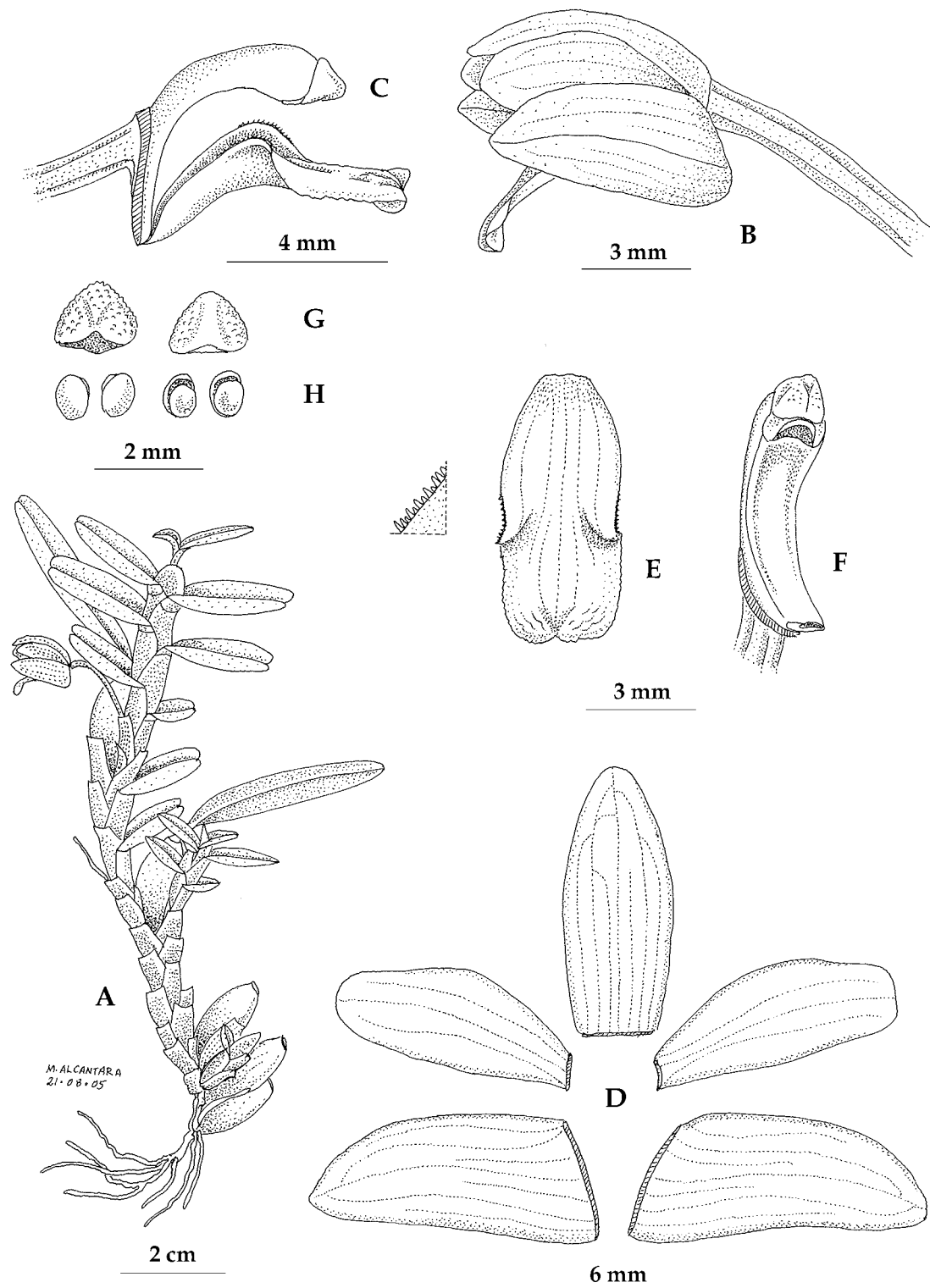


FIGURE 4. *Maxillaria dichaeoides* Bennett & Christenson (drawn from Bennett 8027 by M. Alcántara A.). **A.** plant in flower; **B.** flower, side view; **C.** column and labellum, side view; **D.** sepals and petals, dissected; **E.** labellum, from above; **F.** column, +/- undersurface; **G.** anther, ventral view (left), dorsal view (right); **H.** pollinia, ventral view (left), dorsal view (right).