

Mormodes chrysantha Salazar, *sp. nov.* (figs. 1, 2).

TYPE: without locality, sent to Kew from the Royal Botanic Garden, Glasnevin, by F. W. Moore, February 15, 1905, K!

Species haec M. buccinatori Lindl. simile, sed floribus aurantiacis, non resupinatis, labello leviter trilobo, supra medio incurvo, lobo mediano late triangulari, prominenti, conspicue incrassato et valde excavato.

Plant epiphytic, caespitose. **Pseudobulbs** fusiform, 6-9 cm long, covered by broad, imbricating leaf sheaths. **Leaf blades** several, plicate, articulate, deciduous, elliptic to oblanceolate, acuminate, bright green, (9) 20-40 cm long, (1.5) 3-6 cm wide. **Inflorescence** basal (fide Rolfe), erect, 25-35 cm long; peduncle terete, with 2 clasping, obtuse, scarious bracts 9-11 mm long; raceme lax, with 5-10 simultaneous flowers. **Floral bracts**

broadly ovate, somewhat concave, subacute, 6-10 mm long. **Flowers** medium-sized for the genus, non-resupinate, deep orange yellow or canary yellow throughout. **Ovary** twisted, terete, slightly thickened gradually toward the apex, 27-36 cm long, ca. 2 mm thick near the apex. **Dorsal sepal** arcuate, oblong-elliptic, acute, 24-27 mm long, 8.5-8.8 mm wide. **Lateral sepals** reflexed from the base, 25-32.3 mm long, 9-9.5 mm wide. **Petals** arcuate, forming together with the dorsal sepal a sort of loose hood that covers the column, obliquely elliptic, acute, 21-26.2 mm long, 11-12.3 mm wide. **Lip** inflexed above the middle, saddle-shaped, with the sides recurved and touching marginally to each other below, when flattened (with noticeable distortion) transversely elliptic in outline; base clawed, narrowly cuneate, with an abaxial, semiterete keel running down axially from the basis to about the middle of

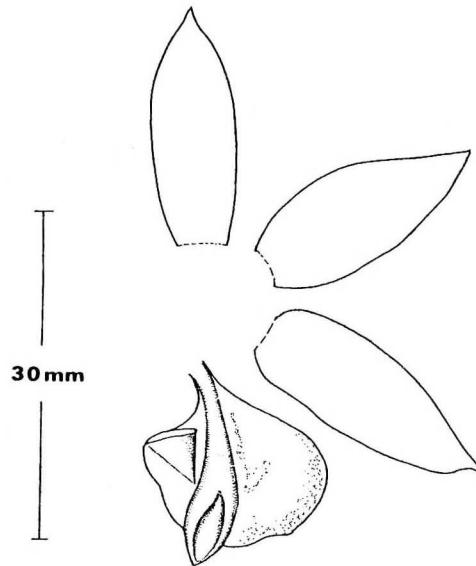


Fig. 2. *Mormodes chrysantha* Salazar. Flower analysis of a flower of the holotype, redrawn from an unpublished drawing by G.F.J. Pabst attached to the herbarium sheet.

the blade; blade entirely glabrous, shallowly three-lobed above the middle, the sinuses separating the lobes inconspicuous; lateral lobes broadly rounded, somewhat oblique, not prominent; midlobe broadly triangular, conspicuously fleshy-thickened along the median axis and with a broad, elliptic cavity on the adaxial surface (corresponding with an abaxial convexity), the apex acute, occasionally shortly apiculate (apiculate triangular, slightly deflexed, ca. 1.25 mm long); lip 20-27 mm long including the 5-7 mm long claw, 15-25 mm wide at the widest part. **Column** oblong, acuminate, twisted to one or the other side ca. 90°, incurved and its apex touching the concavity of the lip upon anthesis, minutely papillose above the middle, 13-16 mm long, ca. 4 mm wide; column foot ca. 2 mm long and wide; clinandrium triangular, slightly concave, 6.2-6.5 mm long; antenna narrowly elliptic, glabrous, somewhat less than 0.5 mm long. **Anther** subovoid, dorsiventrally compressed, rostrate, ca. 6 mm long, 3 mm wide. **Pollinarium** ca. 5 mm long, with 2 ellipsoid, sulcate, hollowed, orange-yellow pollinia united by means of minute caudicles to an oblong stipe with circular viscidium, the latter originally hidden behind the rostellum. **Stigma** obliquely oblong-elliptic, somewhat concave.

OTHER SPECIMENS: **COLOMBIA:** without precise locality, September, 1934, *A. E. Lawrence s.n.* (AMES!). State Boyacá, region El Umbo, 130 mi N of Bogotá, high thick forest, 3000 ft, flower a very beautiful canary yellow, 9 October 1932, *A. E. Lawrence 518* (F! MO[x2]! NY!). **WITHOUT LOCALITY:** Botanic Garden, Glasnevin, Dublin, without further data (BM!).

OTHER RECORDS: A color photograph published by Vieira (1991, p. 342, as *M. claesiana* Pabst) apparently represents this species.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: This species is known only from the State Boyacá, in the Eastern Andean Ridge of Colombia. Epiphyte in humid mountain forest at about 1000 m altitude. Flowering recorded in the field in October.

Mormodes chrysantha can be recognized by the erect raceme with non-resupinate orange-

yellow flowers, transversely elliptic, glabrous lip which is noticeably fleshy thickened along the center and bears a conspicuous excavation above the middle. The apex is relatively broad and thick. This species was imported to Europe early in this century, when it was regarded as a representative of *M. buccinator* Lindl. var. *aurantiaca* Rolfe (Rolfe 1905). However, there are significant differences that warrant the separation of *M. chrysantha* from both *M. buccinator* and from the taxon proposed by Rolfe as its var. *aurantiaca*, which is regarded here as a distinct species (see below).

One collection regarded here as *M. chrysantha* was annotated and cited by Pabst (1968) as *M. oberlanderiana* F. Lehm. & Kraenzl., but the latter species differs in the short, dense, raceme with resupinate flowers, and the much broader, transversely oblong-elliptic lip lacking both the thickening and the excavation that characterize *M. chrysantha*.

Mormodes claesiana Pabst, another yellow-flowered Colombian species, is easily separated by its much larger flowers (floral segments over 35 mm long), and the membranaceous, obcordate, prominently apiculate lip.