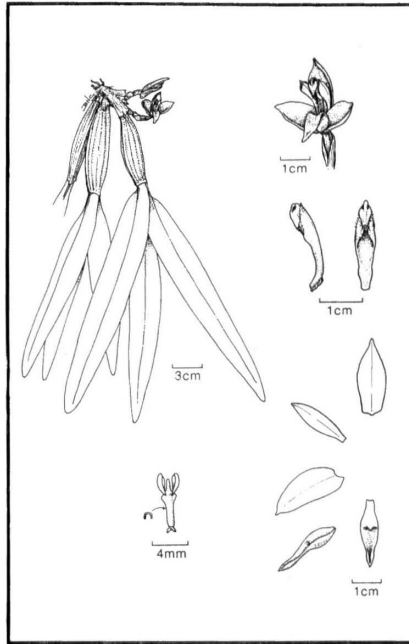


**MAXILLARIA ENCYCLIODES** J.T. Atwood, & Dodson, sp. nov.

Planta similis *Maxillariae acianthae* Rchb.f., sed plantis pendulis, floribus flavis, foliisque multo latoribus differt.

**TYPE:** ECUADOR. Prov. Pichincha, from Toachi area at km 28 on Sto. Domingo-Quito road, ca. 1300 m, 22 Aug 1994 (flowered in cultivation Jan-Mar 1995 when specimen prepared), *C.H. Dodson 19502* (Holotype: RPSC 5961).

**Plant** a shortly creeping, pendent epiphyte to about 40 cm tall, roots about 1 mm in diameter. **Pseudobulbs** cylindric, strongly compressed laterally, lightly grooved, 8-10 x 2-2.5 cm, subtended by several sheaths with articulations, the uppermost often foliaceous; apex 2-3-foliolate. **Leaves** elliptic, 18-25 x 3-3.7 cm wide, shortly petiolate, obtuse and obliquely emarginate. **Inflorescences** as per the genus, produced on the current mature shoots; scapes less than 1 cm, scape bracts strongly imbricate, rather hard; ovary



**MAXILLARIA ENCYCLOIDES**

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2-2.5 cm long, subtended by the subequal appressed floral bract. **Flowers** intense yellow, lip red with yellow apex. **Sepals** canaliculate, concave, cartilagenous, the dorsal elliptic-lanceolate, 2.5 x 0.9 cm in natural position, acute; lateral sepals 2.5 x 1 cm in natural position, oblique at the base, ovate, acute, the chin 7 mm long. **Petals** elliptic-lanceolate, 2.2 x 0.6 cm; the apex acute, slightly recurved. **Lip** elliptic, canaliculate, arching, fleshy, 2 x 0.6 cm with lamellate callus on lower 3/5, oily, apex thickened. **Column** arcuate, much thickened above, 1.6-1.8 cm long, operculum with a blunt keel, about 5 mm long, 4 pollinia supported on stipe 4-5 mm long with horseshoe-shaped viscidium, the pollinia inserted about 1 mm from the end of the stipe; anther bed ciliate; foot about 5 mm long.

**ETYMOLOGY:** named in allusion to the resemblance to certain species of *Encyclia*, specially to *E. cochleata*.

*Maxillaria encycloides* grows in rather dense shade at about 1300 m elev. It differs from closely related *M. aciantha* Rchb.f. by the broad leaves borne on pendent shoots and by the intense yellow sepals and petals. That this attractive, yellow orchid could have gone unnoticed so long is nearly inconceivable.

vable, especially at a site where collecting has been rather intense for more than two decades. Either the populations have extremely low density or the plant represents a waife established from seed from a remote, more dense population. In either case, it seems to be a rare species.

**ETIMOLOGIA:** nombrada en alusión al parecido con ciertas especies de *Encyclia*, especialmente con *E. cochleata*.

*Maxillaria encyclioides* crece en sombra más bien densa, a unos 1.300 m. de elevación. Difiere de la cercanamente relacionada *M. aciantha* Rchb.f. por las hojas anchas que nacen de crecimientos péndulos y por los sépalos y pétalos de color amarillo intenso. Es inconcebible que esta atractiva orquídea, con flores amarillas, haya pasado desapercibida durante tanto tiempo, especialmente en un sitio en el cual las colectas han sido intensas por más de dos décadas. Puede ser que las poblaciones son extremadamente pobres o que la planta es un caso aislado y que se ha establecido de semilla de una población más densa y remota. En cualquiera de los casos, parece ser una especie rara.

