A New Species of *Maxillaria*, section *Maxillaria*, from the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes in Colombia

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Abstract: A new species of *Maxillaria* from Colombia is described and illustrated. Similar to *M. lueri*, but is distinguished by having much broader, flat leaves, sheaths without leaf-blades, and elongate fusiform and slightly flattened pseudobulbs.

Key words: taxonomy, orchidaceae, orchid flora, *Maxillaria sensu lato*.

Maxillaria Ruiz & Pav. (Ruiz & Pavón 1794)

Is a commonly encountered genus distributed from Mexico and the Caribbean to Bolivia and Brazil, occurring from sea level up to 3000 m elevation. Its vegetative morphology varies from rhizomatous, sympodial, caespitose plants to plants that appear to be monopodial, with pseudobulbs that can be present or absent. Species of *Maxillaria sensu lato* are characterized by having conduplicate leaves, single-flowered inflorescences and a labellum that is free and articula-

ted with the column (Schuiteman and Chase 2015, Zambrano–Romero and Solano–Gomez 2016). The taxonomic classification proposed by Schuiteman and Chase (2015) reverses the previously segregated genera of *Maxillaria sensu lato*, instead combining them into a supergenus of 17 sections including genera like *Cryptocentrum, Cyrtidiorchis, Mormolyca, Pityphyllum,* and *Trigonidium* into *Maxillaria,* but also includes the former segregate genera *Brasiliorchis, Camaridium, Christensonella, Heterotaxis, Inti, Mapinguari, Maxillariella, Nitidobulbon, Ornithidium, Pityphyllum, Rhetinantha,* and *Sauvetrea*.

With this classification, 600 species are included in the genus *Maxillaria* (Govaerts, 2017); making it in the top ten largest genera in the Orchidaceae family. In Colombia, about 215 species of *Maxillaria* (Govaerts 2014) are reported, having the largest number of *Maxillaria* species in the world, more than the 200 species recorded for Ecuador (Dodson 2002, Zambrano–Romero and Solano–Gomez 2016, Govaerts 2017). These numbers are likely to increase as more discoveries add to the Colombian orchid flora. Here we describe a new species of *Maxillaria* Ruiz & Pav. sect. *Maxillaria*, from the department of Santander, Colombia.

Maxillaria maria-luisae J.S.Moreno, P.A. Harding & L.Pina, Orquideología 34(1): xx. 2017.

Type: COLOMBIA. Santander Department, Gambita, Duitama, Charalá, Santuario de Fauna y Flora Guanenta Alto Rio Fonce 6°01'12"N 73°13'15.6"W. 2000 m. November 2015. *J.S. Moreno & A.L. Erazo 343* (holotype: CAUP!) (Fig. 1-2).

Diagnosis: This species is somewhat similar to *Maxillaria lueri* Dodson, a species with pendulous, much-branched rhizomes, spots on the sheaths that cover the rhizome and pseudobulbs and a long stipe in the pollinia. *M. maria-luisae* differs from the latter by having flat and much broader leaves, elongate fusiform and slightly flattened pseudobulbs subtended by sheaths that lack leaf blades, a column lacking a hood-like extension of the clinandrium, a glabrous callus on the lip and a pollinia lacking a stipe/viscidium.

Description. – Plant epiphytic, pendent. **Roots** filiform, white. **Rhizomes** branched, short, 2.0–4.0 cm between growths, covered with papery, spotted scales. **Pseudobulbs** elongate fusiform, slightly flattened, longitudinally furrowed, 5 × 0.7 cm, light green, covered by papery, brown, spotted, adpressed sheaths without leaf-blades; unifoliate. **Leaves** leathery, conduplicate, linear-lanceolate, short petiolate, light green, 25 × 1.5 cm. **Inflorescence** 1–2 per pseudobulb, emerging at base of newly developing pseudobulb between sheaths, one flower per sheath. **Peduncle** 2 cm, covered by bract-like scales that are translucent green with brown–red spots; floral bract extended, covering over half the dorsal sepal. **Flowers** campanulate, yellow–green, with purple–red spots between the veins, except for the distal third. **Dorsal sepal** lanceolate, acuminate, 1.9 × 0.8–0.9 cm, **lateral sepals** lanceolate, acuminate, curved inward and downward at 2/3 of their length, 1.8–1.9 × 0.6–0.7 cm, 11-veined. Petals lanceolate, acuminate, 1.5 × 0.7 cm, 5-veined. **Lip** elliptic, trilobed, 1.4 × 0.8 cm, white basally, at mid length dark red, distal–most margin brown–yellow; lateral lobes erect, apex obtuse; midlobe 0.5 × 0.4 cm, oblong, distal margin upcurved; callus glabrous, 0.3 × 0.2 cm, from column base to 1/3 lip length, low at base becoming a free plate at its truncate apex. **Column** slightly curved, white, 1–1.2 × 0.3–0.4 cm. **Anther cap** 0.3 cm. **Pollinia** 0.2 × 0.3 cm, without stipe.

Discussion:
This species is unusual for its pendulous rhizome; in this respect it is similar to *Maxillaria lueri* Dodson, from Costa Rica

to Ecuador, but differs from that species as indicated in the diagnosis. Only one species from Panamá shares similar traits, *Maxillaria curvicolumna* M.A.Blanco & Neubig, another pendent species with spotting on the sheaths with short flat pseudobulbs, narrower leaves, sheaths carrying a leaf-blade and a sparsely pilose callus with capitates trichomes (Blanco 2007) and its sigmoid column.

Habitat and distribution: Apparently endemic to the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes in Colombia, where it has only been found in the department of Santander (Fig. 3). It occurs in dense montane forest growing on the lowest branches of large trees, most plants seven meters or more above the ground. The plants grow on large limbs, about 2–3 m from the trunk, forming large hanging clumps anchored by the rhizome.

Eponymy: In honor of Maria Luisa Hincapié, wife of the third author, Luis Pina.

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES AND PHOTO CREDIT

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