

An unusual new species of *Maxillaria* from Colombia

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Abstract: *Maxillaria carrilloi*, a new species from Colombia is described.

Key Words: *Maxillaria carrilloi*, Orchidaceae, Colombia.

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During a recent trip to Bogota, Arturo Carrillo showed me a unique, laxly pendent species of *Maxillaria* in his greenhouses. Subsequently, I was able to locate seven previously unidentified herbarium specimens of the same species at the National University (COL). I take this opportunity to formally describe this species.

Maxillaria carrilloi* Christenson, *spec. nov.

TYPE: COLOMBIA. Cundinamarca, Tena, road from Pendropaloto to Mesa, 1900 m, 24 Jan 1966, *L. Uribe* U. 5497, COL!

Species haec *M. lutescens* Scheidw. similis sed plantis laxipendulis, foliis angustioribus, labello subpandurato differt

Massive laxly pendent epiphytes, anchoring at the base and also rooting from older pseudobulbs 4-5 growths behind the apex. Rhizomes frequently branching, forming cascades to 1+ m long in cultivation. Pseudobulbs conic, compressed, appearing nearly cylindric in dried specimens, to 6 x 1.3 cm long, subtended by 2-3 foliaceous bracts similar to the leaves, the blades soon deciduous. Leaves two, linear, attenuate to the base, obliquely bilobed at the apex, to 22.5 x 0.8 cm. Inflorescences subsessile axillary scapes from bracts below the base of the pseudobulbs, the peduncles minute, with one peduncular bract, the floral bract subsimilar and subequal to the peduncular bract, the two overlapping for their length, 1.1 cm long. Flowers yellow, the base of the column and the column foot dark red-purple. Dorsal sepal elliptic-lanceolate, acute, 1.3 x 0.3 cm, the lateral sepals lanceolate, acuminate, 1.4 x 0.3 cm. Petals obliquely lanceolate from a clawed base, acute, 1 x 0.2 cm. Lip subpandurate, clawed, slightly arching, obtuse, 1 x 0.3 cm, the basal lobules shallowly suberect, the apex obtuse, the callus transverse, sublunate, connecting the basal lip lobules. Column arching, clavate, 0.6 cm long, the column foot 0.2 cm long. Pedicel and ovary 1.1 cm long. Fruits capsules, 1 cm long.

Etymology: Named for Arturo Carrillo, who maintains a large collection of Colombian orchid species near Bogota and freely contributes to our knowledge of Colombia's rich orchid flora.

Paratypes: COLOMBIA. Cundinamarca, Mun. Tena, 28 Aug 1988, *A. Chaparro de Barrera & E. Barrera* T. 126, COL!; Cundinamarca, Mun. Tibacoy, 24 Oct 1985, *A. Chaparro de Barrera & E. Barrera* T. 126, COL!; Cundinamarca, Sasaíma, San Bernardo, Quebrada La María and Río Dulce, 1750-1950 m, 20-30 Nov 1962, *H. Garcia-Barriga* 17590, COL!; Cundinamarca,

Santanderito, 1900 m, 29 Sep 1962, *H. Schmidt* 125, COL!; Cundinamarca. Río Bogotá, above Salto Tequendama, 2000 m, 14 Jul 1945, *M. Schneider* 31/1, COL!; Cundinamarca. Facatativá, road to El Dintel, 2700 m, 23 Jul 1950, *M. Schneider* 31/2, COL!

Maxillaria carrilloi is unique in the genus *Maxillaria* for its laxly pendent habit. In addition, *M. carrilloi* is unusual for having distinctly clawed petals. In growth form the species resembles some species of tropical *Lycopodium* (Lycopodiaceae) more than it does a *Maxillaria*. The species superficially resembles *M. lutescens* (synonym: *M. camaridii* Rchb.f.) in its pseudobulb shape and bifoliate habit but *M. carrilloi* has much narrower leaves and completely different floral morphology. I imagine *M. carrilloi* might resemble the “lost” *M. camaridioides* Schltr., known only from the original Latin description, but that species is a fraction of the size of *M. carrilloi* (i.e., leaves to 4 x 0.5 cm in *M. camaridioides*). Finally, a portion of *M. carrilloi* might be mistaken for *M. alba* (W. J. Hook.) Lindl. but that species bears unifoliate leaves and larger, white flowers.

Maxillaria carrilloi is in limited cultivation in Colombia and would make a welcome addition to general orchid horticulture. In addition to having quite attractive flowers, the growth habit is appealing even without flowers.

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Figure: Grower & photographer: A. Carrillo

Fig. 1. *Maxillaria carrilloi*

