

## A new species of *Maxillaria* (Orchidaceae) from Ecuador and Peru

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**Abstract:** *Maxillaria fraudulenta*, a new species from Ecuador and Peru is described.

**Key Words:** *Maxillaria fraudulenta*, Orchidaceae, Ecuador, Peru.

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A beautiful white-flowered species of *Maxillaria* from Ecuador and northern Peru has been consistently misidentified as *M. confusa* Ames & C. Schweinf., *M. grayi* Dods., and *M. jucunda* Lehm. & Kraenzl. It is described here as a new species, *M. fraudulenta* Christenson. In addition to distinct floral features, *M. fraudulenta* is immediately separated from those species by its very different, short-petiolate leaves.

***Maxillaria fraudulenta*** Christenson, *spec. nov.*

TYPE: ECUADOR. Commercially exported without locality data, flowered in cultivation in England, *M. McIlmurray* E-29 (holotype: K).

Species haec *Maxillaria grayi* Dods. similis sed brevipetiolaris, sepalis lateralibus nondecurvatis in medio differt.

Caespitose epiphytes or terrestrials. Pseudobulbs ovoid-ellipsoid, compressed, 4.5 x 2.7 cm, with an additional neck 2.5 x 0.7 cm, subtended by 1-2 foliaceous bracts, the bracts subsimilar to but smaller than the leaves. Leaves one, elliptic, petiolate, acute, the petioles strongly bilaterally compressed, 5-6 cm long, the blades 29-30.5 x 5.7 cm. Inflorescences a flush of several erect scapes produced from mature pseudobulbs with the onset of new growth, the peduncles 5.8-9.5 cm long, the floral bracts elliptic, acute, subequal to slightly longer than the ovaries, to 2.2 cm long. Flowers fragrant ("strong grassy scent" according to McIlmurray), white, the junction of the column foot and lip pale orange, the lip pale lemon yellow. Dorsal sepal oblong-elliptic, obtuse, arching, with revolute lateral margins, keeled at the apex, 2.4-2.9 x 0.6-1 cm, the lateral sepals oblong-ovate, obtuse, strongly divergent, spreading, with revolute lateral margins, 2.5-2.9 x 1-1.1 cm. Petals obliquely lanceolate, acute, inflexed, 2-2.5 x 0.6 cm. Lip unlobed, ovate, obtuse, arching, 1.7 x 0.8 cm, the disk covered with pale lemon yellow farinaceous trichomes, the callus ligulate, obtuse-rounded, shallowly sulcate, from the base of the lip to slightly above the middle. Column arching, 1.1 cm long, the clinandrium minutely irregular, the column foot 0.8 cm long. Pedicel and ovary 6-sulcate, 1.7 cm long.

Etymology: From the Latin *fraudulent*, referring to its masquerading as different species in botany and horticulture.

Paratypes: ECUADOR: Napo, km 15, Cotundo to Hollin, 1100 m, 17 June 1983, *C. H. Dodson et al.* 14013, SEL; Pastaza, 2.5 km N of Mera on the Banos-Puya road, Hacienda San Antonio Baron von Humboldt, 1050-1300 m, 14 Mar 1985, *C. H. Dodson & L. M. Bermeo* 15680, MO!

*Maxillaria fraudulentula* was first illustrated by Dodson and Dodson (1989) as *M. jucunda* Lehm. & Kraenzl. It is clearly not *M. jucunda* (TYPE: ECUADOR. Near Cuchibamba, Andes east of Cuenca, 1000-1050 m, F. C. Lehmann 6554, holotype: B, destroyed; isotypes: K). The petioles of *M. fraudulentula* are 5-6 cm long in contrast to those of *M. jucunda* which are 11-12 cm long. In addition, the lip of *M. jucunda* was described as brown spotted (“fusco-maculatum”) and I have not seen any material of *M. fraudulentula* with any anthocyanin pigments on the lip.

*Maxillaria confusa* is known from Belize to Colombia. It differs from *M. fraudulentula* by having cupped flowers with the sepals and petals subparallel, like your fingers when you hold a ball with your fingertips. The lateral sepals of *M. confusa* have flat margins unlike the characteristically revolute margins seen in *M. fraudulentula*. The lip of *M. confusa* is nearly straight and has just a few scattered trichomes unlike the conspicuously arching lip of *M. fraudulentula* covered with lemon yellow farinaceous trichomes. Finally, the undersurface of the lip of *M. confusa* is variously marked with reddish purple in contrast to the unmarked lip of *M. fraudulentula*.



Foto : Michael McIlmurray , holder of the British National Plant Collection of Maxillaria Species.

I considered the first few plants of *M. fraudulentula* I examined to be a simple variant of *M. grayi*, differing mostly in the attitude of the lateral sepals. As more samples became available, however, it became clear that there were other consistent differences. The lateral sepals of *M. grayi* in addition to twisting above the middle, are held at a downward angle at the point of insertion. In contrast, the lateral sepals of *M. fraudulentula* are strongly divergent and held at 180° to each other. But more significantly, the petiole length separates the species. *Maxillaria fraudulentula* has petioles 5-6 cm long in contrast to the elongate petioles of *M. grayi* which range

from 14-25 cm long. The type description of *M. grayi* cites shorter petioles as well but these are from the foliaceous bracts subtending the pseudobulbs and not the true leaves terminating the pseudobulbs.

Finally, *M. fraudulenta* is also similar to *M. dalessandroi* Dods. But that species has a very differently shaped flower, a 3-lobed lip, and an emarginated (notched) lip apex.

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#### References

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