

**Maxillaria Lankesteri** Ames *sp. nov.* Herba epiphytica. Caules elongati, pseudobulbis inter se satis distantiibus instructi. Folia elliptico-oblunga, apice bilobata. Pars caulis florifera bracteis arcte imbricantibus obtecta. Pedunculus uniflorus, bibracteatus. Sepala lateralia oblongo-lanceolata, acuta, quinquenervia. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala oblongo-lanceolata, obtusa, quadrinervia. Labellum trilobatum; lobis lateralibus minutis, semiovatis; lobo medio elliptico, emarginato, margine valde deflexo, prope basim callo transverso instructo. Columna arcuata, in pedem producta.

Epiphytic herb with slender ascending or drooping stems which bear slender pseudobulbs at intervals and are invested between the pseudobulbs with closely imbricating bracts from among which the flowers are produced. Stems, — with a few distichous leaves at the growing point, — slender, about 3 mm. thick, arising from a mass of whitish fibrous roots, concealed at base by the persistent sheaths of fallen leaves, sometimes subtended by the remains of pseudobulbs. Pseudobulbs 2.5–3 cm. long, 3–4 mm. thick, monophyllous

at the summit, with a subtending leaf on a sheathing base, 6-8 cm. apart, produced in succession as the stems elongate. Above each newly formed pseudobulb the stem is concealed by the closely appressed bracts from among which the flowers are produced. Leaves of the pseudobulbs 2-4.5 cm. long, about 1 cm. wide, elliptic-oblong, obtuse, bilobed at the tip, with an apicule between the lobes, the lamina of the subtending leaf equaling or exceeding the pseudobulb, the immature leaves of the growing tip of the stem smaller and distichous, crowded. Peduncle 1-flowered, 7 mm. long, slender, the upper bract subtending the pedicel. Bracts about 8 mm. long, conduplicate, shortly tubular at the base, ovate-lanceolate, prominently nerved. Pedicel 7 mm. long, almost concealed by the subtending bract. Lateral sepals 11 mm. long, up to 4 mm. wide, oblong-lanceolate, acute, 5-nerved, forming a distinct mentum with the foot of the column. Dorsal sepal 12 mm. long, about 3 mm. wide below the middle, oblong-lanceolate, acute, somewhat carinate at the tip on the outer surface. Petals 11 mm. long, 3 mm. wide, oblong-lanceolate, obtuse, 4-nerved (the fourth nerve sometimes indistinct). Labellum 9.5 mm. long, 3-lobed; lateral lobes minute, about 2 mm. long, semiovate, subacute, obliquely erect, porrect; middle lobe 8 mm. long, about 4.5 mm. wide when spread out, strongly convex, with the margin deflexed or almost revolute, sulcate along the middle, 5-nerved, with a heavy callus at the base in front of the lateral lobes. Column slender, arched, produced into a conspicuous foot.

From the material which constitutes the type, it is evident that after a pseudobulb is formed the stem grows on, and from among imbricating bracts produces a number of flowers borne singly on short peduncles. After the flowering season the growing tip of the stem, which always bears several distichous leaves, elongates, and at length gives rise to a new pseudobulb, when the vegetative history of the plant repeats itself.

Allied to *Maxillaria microphyton* Schltr., but with broader leaves, larger flowers, and a different labellum. *Ornithidium parvulum* Schltr. is also closely allied. *O. parvulum* appears to be the same as *Maxillaria microphyton*, and from the original description it is quite impossible to find substantial differentiating characters between them. Both of the species were collected by Tonduz under the same field number (9670), and it is probable that Schlechter described the same species twice under different genera, and that his *Ornithidium parvulum* is a synonym of *Maxillaria microphyton*.

COSTA RICA, Cachi, C. H. Lankester 508, 1923. Sepals and petals hyaline, striped with maroon. Column pale green. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 27219.)