

Maxillaria ortizii**Christenson, sp. nov.**

Type: Colombia. Frontino (Antioquia), 'El Cerro', c.1,800m, 1970, *P. Ortiz 395* (holotype: HPUJ). Species haec *Maxillaria breviscapa* Poepp. et Endl. similis sed bracteis floralibus subinflatis, sepalis petalisque obtusis, labello elliptico non cuneato differt.

Description of *M. ortizii*

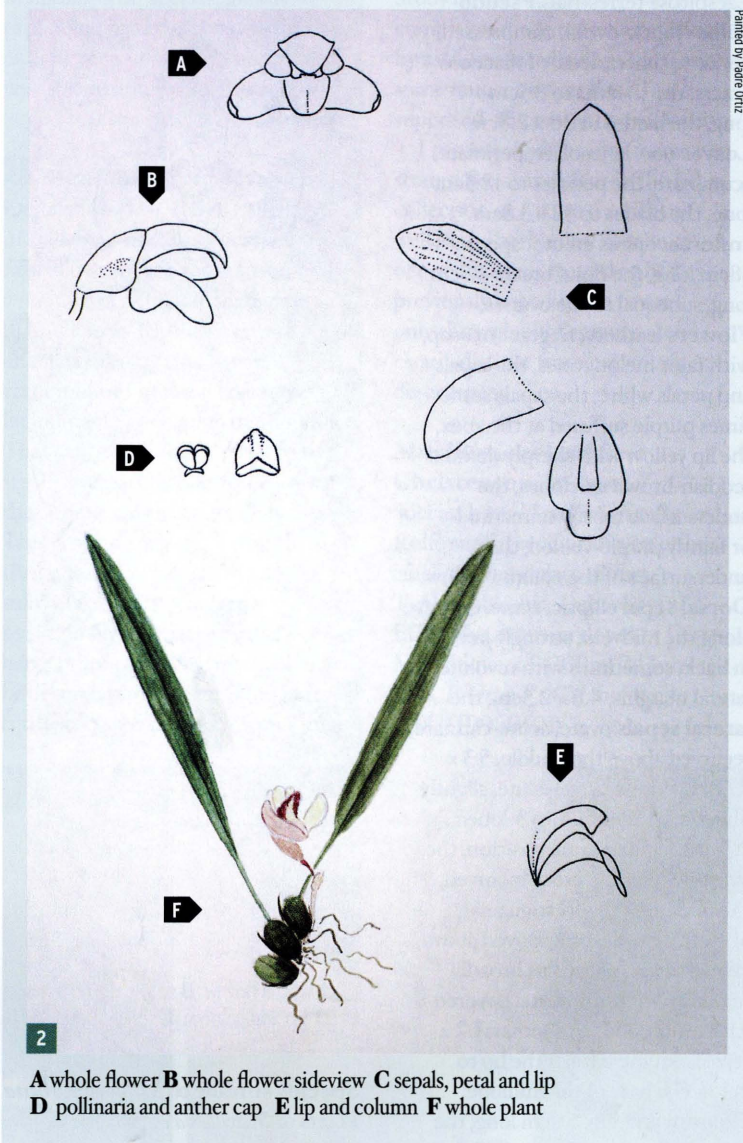
Caespitose epiphytes. **Pseudobulbs** ellipsoid, compressed, 1cm long, subtended by papery bracts. **Leaves** one, linear-lanceolate, petiolate, acute, the petioles to 1.6cm long, the blades to 7 × 0.8cm. **Inflorescences** short slender scapes, the peduncles to 1.5cm long, the floral bracts subinflated, obtuse, cupping the base of the flower, to 1cm long. **Flowers** globose, cream white, the outside of the sepals brownish grey, the petals with yellow apices, the lip with very broad dark purple margins. **Dorsal sepal** oblong-elliptic, obtuse, concave, 1.3 × 0.6cm. **Lateral sepals** lightly oblique, 1.3 × 0.6cm. **Petals** elliptic, obtuse-rounded, 1.3 × 0.5cm. **Lip** 3-lobed, elliptic in outline, 1.2

× 0.7cm, the lateral lobes rounded, the midlobe transverse, quadrangular, obtuse-truncate, the callus oblong, truncate, from the base of the lip to the middle. **Column** arching; the anther with a low, rounded, poorly defined ridge.

Etymology It is a great honour to name this species for its collector and illustrator Padre Pedro Ortiz Valdivieso, an expert on the orchids of Colombia.

Species similar to *M. ortizii*

Maxillaria ortizii is vegetatively almost identical to *M. breviscapa*. The flowers, however, are quite different (Bennett & Christenson 1995). *Maxillaria breviscapa* has lanceolate, acute floral bracts, oblong-lanceolate, acute sepals and petals, a wedge-shaped lip base, and a triangular lip midlobe that is distinctly longer than it is broad. *Maxillaria ortizii*, in



2 A whole flower B whole flower sideview C sepals, petal and lip D pollinaria and anther cap E lip and column F whole plant

contrast, has obtuse subinflated floral bracts, elliptic, obtuse-rounded sepals and petals, an elliptic lip base, and a transverse quadrangular lip midlobe.

Maxillaria ortizii is known from a single collection made in 1970. Hopefully the species will be found again and introduced to horticulture by one of the nurseries in Colombia with active micropropagation laboratories.