

Genus *Maxillaria*

The name *Maxillaria* comes from the Latin word *maxilla* or jaw. This genus is name because the lip bends up and down from a springy connection at the base and the side lobes curl up just like a jawbone. The type species is *Maxillaria platypetala* from Perú. (González-Costa 2019).

Maxillaria is a very diverse group that cause a lot of controversy among taxonomist. In order to have an approach to the genus, make it simple is the easiest way to understanding the genus. I would use OrchidWiz X9.1 to sort the approximately 670 species, selecting just the ones with more offspring and at least 5 awards. It's given me 66 entries, about 10% of the total record. Perhaps is not a good sample representation considering the great diversity of the genus but is a changing reference.

Max. speciosa has the larger vertical natural spread with the average of 16.6 cm. and the smaller is *Max. densa* with 0.7 cm. Let review from the bottom of the list the species that I think are interesting. *Max. tonsbergii*, had been awarded 5 times in the AOS. This flower is interesting because the sepals are nicely overlaid and the dark cordovan petals make a nice contrast.



Maxillaria tonsbergii 'Spooky'
AM/AOS (83 points)
Photo by Arthur Pinkers

Max. scalariformis, named before *Adamanthus scalariformis* (2012) and *Camaridium scalariformis* (2007), finally was moved to the genus *Maxillaria*. Looking the flowers at glimpse does not looked like an Orchids and it shape are quite different than other *Maxillarias*.

Maxillaria scalariformis
'Yasnita' AM/AOS (81 points)

Photo by Loren Batchman



Looking up to the list, I came across with *Max. parkeri*. Its flower shape resembles *Lycaste*, floriferousness and color are the main feature.

Maxillaria parkeri
'Mountainside' CBR/AOS

Photo by Charles Ufford



Maxillaria parkeri 'Planting Fields' CBM/AOS 81

Max. elatior is a small flower, awarded by the AOS mainly cultural. The small flower is appealing because its raspberry flower.



Maxillaria elatior 'Viria Pacheco
Salazar' AM/AOS (80 points)
Photo by Jorge Enrique Céspedes Trigueros

I think *Max. striata* had been important in breeding because its stripes on the segments, however relative recent it had been crossed with *Anguloa clowesii* and the yellow color is mixed with stippled red spots and the *Maxillaria* shape is dominant. the grex is *Angularia* and it was awarded in 2018 with an AM and AD because the new direction of breeding.



Angularia Denise Barrow 'Mid-Michigan' AD/AOS (0 points)

Photo by Lynn O'Shaughnessey

Max. schunkeana, small dark flower, burgundy that appear black had earned 15 AOS awards, 1 AM and two HCC, the rest cultural awards.

Max. picta, flower with segment curved is interesting because the reverse of the yellows petals and sepals are spotted.



Max. picta

Photo by Eric Hunt

Max. sanguinea, name after the red color of the sepals and petals earned 25 AOS awards, however it had not been used too much on breeding, it just had been crossed two times to produced *Max. Maui Coconut (Max. sanguinea x Max. tenuifolia)* and *Max. Dark Hope (Max. sanguinea x Max. shunkeana)*. I think the breeder expected to get progeny with red intense red color.

| Names | Progeny F1/Total | N.S | FCC | AM | HCC | JC | AQ | CCC | CCE | CCM | CHM | CBR | CBM | Total |
|------------------------------|------------------|------|-----|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| <i>Max. speciosa</i> | 0/0 | 16.6 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | 4 |
| <i>Max. striata</i> | 9/10 | 13.1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 12 |
| <i>Max. sanderiana</i> | 7/8 | 12.9 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 4 | 1 | | | 12 |
| <i>Max. grandis</i> | 1/1 | 11.8 | 1 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 6 |
| <i>Max. longipetala</i> | 0/0 | 9.1 | | 10 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | 7 | 3 | 1 | | 26 |
| <i>Max. luteoalba</i> | 1/1 | 9.0 | | 1 | | | | | | 4 | | | | 5 |
| <i>Max. grandiflora</i> | 3/3 | 8.4 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| <i>Max. luteograndiflora</i> | 1/2 | 8.4 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | 7 |
| <i>Max. lehmannii</i> | 5/5 | 8.0 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| <i>Max. fractiflexa</i> | 1/1 | 7.9 | | 4 | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 10 |
| <i>Max. fletcheriana</i> | 1/2 | 7.6 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 4 |
| <i>Max. longissima</i> | 1/1 | 6.8 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| <i>Max. irrorata</i> | 3/3 | 6.7 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| <i>Max. elegantula</i> | 1/1 | 6.5 | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | 3 |
| <i>Max. molitor</i> | 6/6 | 6.5 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 4 |
| <i>Max. nigrescens</i> | 2/2 | 5.8 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| <i>Max. parkeri</i> | 1/1 | 5.7 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| <i>Max. cucullata</i> | 2/2 | 5.0 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | 10 |
| <i>Max. nutans</i> | 1/1 | 5.0 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| <i>Max. desvauxiana</i> | 1/1 | 4.9 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| <i>Max. elatior</i> | 2/2 | 4.9 | | 1 | | | | | | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| <i>Max. bradei</i> | 1/1 | 4.8 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| <i>Max. tenuifolia</i> | 6/6 | 4.7 | | 6 | 6 | 2 | | | 2 | 25 | 1 | | | 42 |
| <i>Max. picta</i> | 2/2 | 4.5 | | 6 | 2 | | | | 4 | 9 | | | 1 | 22 |
| <i>Max. huebschii</i> | 2/2 | 4.2 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| <i>Max. sanguinea</i> | 2/2 | 3.2 | | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 19 | 1 | | | 25 |
| <i>Max. hedwigiae</i> | 1/1 | 3.1 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| <i>Max. schunkeana</i> | 2/2 | 2.3 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 2 | 9 | | 1 | | 15 |
| <i>Max. egertoniana</i> | 1/1 | 2.2 | | | 1 | | | | | 3 | | | | 4 |
| <i>Max. pulla</i> | 1/2 | 1.9 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| <i>Max. variabilis</i> | 3/4 | 1.8 | | 4 | | 3 | | | 3 | 7 | 3 | 1 | | 21 |
| <i>Max. paranaensis</i> | 0/0 | 1.5 | | | 1 | | | | | 5 | | 2 | | 8 |
| <i>Max. lineolata</i> | 2/2 | 1.4 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| <i>Max. arbuscula</i> | 1/1 | 1.2 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| <i>Max. pumila</i> | 0/0 | 0.9 | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |

About the scale to judge *Maxillaria* I suggested using general scale.

References

- González-Costa.2019. *Maxillaria* – A complex and variable genus. Orchids. Vol. 88 (6): 436
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