**Maxillaria**

**Maxillaria** Ruiz & Pav., *Fl. Peruv. Prodr.,* 116, pl. 25 (1794)

**Type species**: *Maxillaria platypetala*

**Description:** Epiphytic, lithophytic, or terrestrial, sympodial herbs, caespitose or rhizomatous, erect to (rarely) pendent; in some species caespitose as juveniles but becoming rhizotnatous. Roots cylindrical and glabrous, velamentous, usually branching. Stem rhizornatous, usually branching, or erect cane Without pseudobulbs. Pseudobulb (When present) usually ovoid and laterally compressed, unifoliate, usually clustered on rhizome, subtended by bracts ranging from scarious to leaf-like with abscission layer. Leaver conduplicate to semiterete, articulate with their sheaths or with the apex of the pseudobulb, sessile or petiolate, usually oblong or oblong-elliptic but often linear, subterete, broadly elliptic or obovoid, acute to obtuse, symmetrical to irregularly oblique (one of the halves of the blade longer than the other); abscission layer of the apical leaf often projecting above the pseudobulb in a persistent stalk (phyllopodium). Inflorescence single-ﬂowered, usually reduced to one to several, solitary-ﬂowered peduncles per bract often at pseudobulb base, erect or ascending, originating from base of pseudobulbs or from axils stem sheaths; bracts green or scarious. Flowers inconspicuous to showy, campanulate to spreading, resupinate or non-resupinate, usually long-lived, occasionally fragrant; bracts shorter or longer than the pedicel plus ovary. Sepals and petals free, submembranous to ﬂeshy, ﬁbres evident when torn. Sepals subequal, the lateral sepals often larger, oblique, adnate to the column foot forming a mentum. Petal: similar to sepals but usually smaller, frequently subparallel to column. Labe/[um usually free and hinged at apex of column foot, usually longitudinally concave, simple to strongly trilobed, lateral lobes obtuse to acute, midlobe usually longer than lateral lobes and often thickened, usually sparsely pubescent, occasionally with pseudopollen; callus ligulate to rectangular, smooth to pubescent. Column cylindrical to hemicylindrical, straight to arcuate, rarely winged, usually with a conspicuous foot, apex occasionally with fringe of trichomes; anther apical, operculate, incumbent, anther cap smooth to variously adorned with crests and rarely trichomes, pollinarium with four pollinia usually in two superposed, unequal pairs, stipe often lunate, occasionally ligulate to apparently absent, viscidium usually well developed, broadly lunate; rostellum transverse; stigma ventral, transverse to ovoid, occasionally transversely narrow. Ovary smooth, round in cross-section. Capsule ellipsoidal, with lateral dehiscence; withered remnants of sepals and petals often persistent at apex.

**Reference:**

Pridgeon AM, Cribb PJ, Chase MW, Rasmussen FN. 2009.*Genera orchidacearum, Vol. 5*.

**Distribution:**

