**2-3-16 Maxillaria**

**RESOURCES**:

# Books & Journals

* Christenson. *Maxillaria: An unfinished Monograph.* Vol 1-2.

# Articles

* “Maxillaria – a Complex and Variable Genus: Larger to medium-flowered species” Part 1. Gonzalez-Costa. *Orchids*. June 2019.
* “Maxillaria – A Complex and Variable Genus: Smaller Flowered Species, Hybrids and Cultivation” Part 2. Gonzalez-Costa. *Orchids*. August. 2019.
* “Maxillaria: More than Maxillaria tenuifolia”. Sauer. *Orchid Digest*. 85(1) 2021.
* “Resolving a Maxillaria mixup: houtteana and tenuifolia”. Sauvetre. *Orchid Review*. June 2020.
* The Genus Maxillaria. Sauer. *Orchid Digest.* 08-2020.

Webinars

* The Genus Maxillaria. Sauer. Aug 2020 (An introduction to species—no judging). <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/255456542763971083>

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**:

* Why is the genus named *Maxillaria*? Describe why.
* Why should you check both *Plants of the World Online* and *OrchidPro* for species’ names?
* How many flowers per inflorescence do the species generally have?
* What segment(s) usually dominate the flower: sepals, petals, or lip?
* *Maxillaria* is a huge genus. Growth habit and vegetative structure can be quite variable. Give a few examples of diverse habit and structure in this genus and note what the example is showing. Should you put growth habit and vegetative structure in most award descriptions?
* Why is it so important to describe the lip in detail in descriptions? Provide examples and explain.
* Describe what is important in judging and writing descriptions in terms of symmetry, stance, flatness and width of sepals and petals? Give examples of what you should be consider significant aspects of quality.
* Should you note how well the flowers are presented or are they hidden in the foliage even partially?
* How important is the ratio of flowered growths to older growths in cultural awards?
* Earlier awards to *Maxillaria tenuifolia* had a tendency to be muddy colors. How does that compare to recent awards and how important is it?
* When might you give a JC or a CHM for species of this genus?
* Since most of the hybrids in this genus have numerous inflorescences, how do you feel about awarding a plant with a single flower. For other genera, the Handbook on Judging says that enough flowers should be open that the plant can be judged adequately. Would that relate to floriferousness in this genus based on expectation for the number of flowers?
* The substance and/or texture are not the same for the sepals and the lip in a plant you are writing a description for. How would you handle that?