

# THE GENUS *VANDA* (ORCHIDACEAE: AERIDINAE) IN THE PHILIPPINES: TWO NEW SPECIES AND A KEY TO THE SPECIES IN THE ARCHIPELAGO

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**ABSTRACT.** Two Philippine *Vanda* species long confused with the Javanese species *V. limbata* and *V. helvola* are here described as *V. mariae* and *V. cootesii*. A key to the genus *Vanda* in the Philippines is provided.

**KEY WORDS:** Java, new species, Philippines, *Vanda*

Subsequent to the seminal work of Eduardo Quisumbing (Valmayor 1981), a good deal of confusion has ensued in the identification of Philippine *Vanda* species. The recognition of *V. ustii* Golamco, Claustro & de Mesa (Golamco *et al.* 2000) and *V. barnesii* W.E.Higgins & Motes, as distinct species (Higgins & Motes 2012) has contributed to clarify the taxonomy of the group. The recent description of *V. mindanaoensis* Motes, L.M.Gardiner & D.L.Roberts (Motes *et al.* 2015) has resolved the identity of this species, which has long been misidentified. Two more Philippine species which have been ascribed to superficially similar Javanese species need to be described as species in their own right. *Vanda cootesii* and *V. mariae* are described here, and a key to the Philippine species is provided.

Including the two species described hereafter, the genus *Vanda* is represented in the Philippines by 12 species. These fall into four different sections. Section *Ascocentrum* (Schltr.) L.M.Gardiner has one Philippine species, *V. aurantiaca* (Schltr.) L.M.Gardiner ssp. *philippinesis* (Christenson) L.M.Gardiner, as does Section *Dactylobata* W.Suarez & Cootes, with *V. mindanaoensis*. Section *Deltoglossa* Christenson is represented by 5 species (*V. cootesii* [described here], *V. luzonica* Loher ex Rolfe, *V. mariae* [also described in this paper], *V. merrillii* Ames & Quisumb., and *V. ustii*). Section *Lamellata* is also represented by five species (*V. barnesii*, *V. javierae* D.Tiu, *V. lamellata* Lindl., *V. roebelingiana* Rolfe, and *V. sanderiana* Rchb.f.). As would be expected of an archipelago, all but two of the species are endemic.

*Vanda lamellata* is the most cosmopolitan of any species in the genus, ranging as far north as

Taiwan, as far east as Ryukyu islands of Japan and the Mariana Islands and as far west as Borneo. The species distinct keeled lip doubtless makes it readily pollinated by some insect or group of insect species. The plants of the various forms exhibit quite varied plant architecture, ranging from the deeply V-shaped leaves of var. *boxallii* (Rchb.f.) Rchb.f. to the broad flat leaves of var. *remediosa* Ames & Quisumb. Flowering seasons also vary. Most varieties are known to bloom throughout the year, but some are completely indeterminate, while var. *boxallii* is predominately a short day plant and transmits this quality to its hybrid progeny. The possibility exists that more precise DNA research will separate several species from this wide ranging and various species.

*Vanda aurantiaca* ssp. *philippinesis*, long mistakenly identified as *Ascocentrum miniatum* (Lindl.) Schltr. (an Indonesian species which ranges northward to Malaysia), is endemic to the Philippines, but *V. aurantiaca* ssp. *aurantiaca* occurs in Sulawesi.

*Vanda limbata* Blume has long been thought to occur in the Philippines. Jeffrey B. Comber, in his *Orchids of Java*, described the range of *V. limbata* as “also in the Philippines” (Comber 1990, Motes & Roberts 2008). The present author’s first encounter with the “Philippine *V. limbata*” occurred in the mid-eighties. The late Fred Fuchs had brought back plants labeled *V. limbata* from a cultivated source in Singapore. One of these plants was depicted as *V. limbata* “Singapore” in *Vandas: Their Botany, History and Culture* (Motes 1997). The numerous differences in plant architecture, inflorescence, and flower color were obvious, but the uncertainty of the true origins of the plants left open the possibility that the plants might



FIGURE 1. *Vanda mariae*. Note the leaves narrower and more deeply furrowed than those of *V. limbata*. Photograph by Greg Allikas.



FIGURE 2. *Vanda mariae*. Flowers from the plant that served as the holotype. Photograph by Martin Motes.

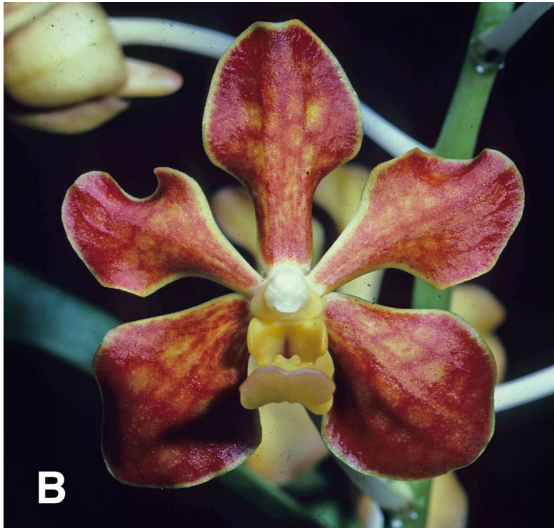
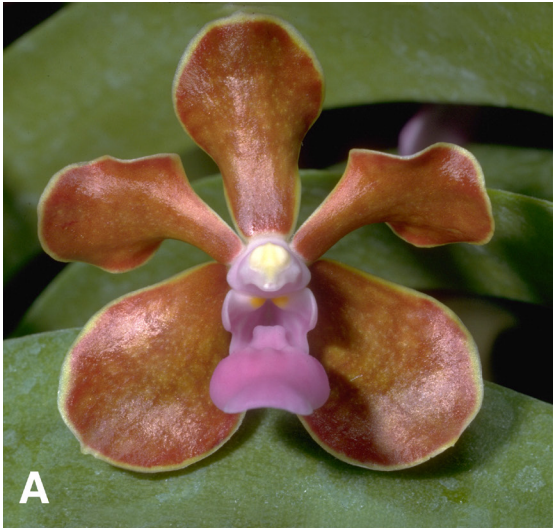


FIGURE 3. A. *Vanda limbata* from Java. The lavender lip, broad at the base and gently tapering, with a large callus, distinguishes this species from *V. mariae*. B. *Vanda mariae* differs from *V. limbata* by its narrow, straight lip with two small calli, as well as by its orange-red color. Photographs by Alan Hoffman.

be of hybrid derivation. During a trip to Luzon last year I was able to observe several nearly identical plants in private collections. These corresponded with a number of pictures on the internet of the “Philippine *V. limbata*” or the “orange *V. limbata*” (Pagdato 2016, Shaun 2016). Although no one is certain of (or willing to reveal) the location of origin, plants periodically appear for sale in horticultural venues in the Philippines. The Philippine plants are of much smaller stature than *V. limbata* from Java, with harder and more deeply furrowed leaves (Fig. 1). The flowers, while superficially similar to those of *V. limbata*, are usually yellow, overlaid with reddish brown, as opposed to the solid deep chestnut brown of typical *V. limbata* (Figs. 2, 3A–B). Unlike the Javanese *V. limbata*, in which there is a barely discernible pattern of underlying tessellation, the sepals and petals of the Philippine plants are distinctly tessellated (Fig. 4). In *V. limbata* the violet mid-lobe is narrow and straight (Fig. 3A). In the Philippine plants the yellow overlaid with red midlobe is deltoid but rolled at the margins (Fig. 3B), making it somewhat resemble *V. limbata*’s lip. *Vanda limbata* has a single prominent callus at the base of the mid-lobe and two small calli on the column foot at the entrance to the spur. In the Philippine plants there are two small calli at the base of the mid-lobe and the calli on the column foot are lacking. The mid-lobe of *V. limbata* is smooth while the mid-lobe of the Philippine flowers is adorned with three low ridges. Based on these ample differences, the Philippine plants are here described as:

***Vanda mariae* Motes, *sp. nov.***

TYPE: Philippines. Without locality, cult., May 2012, *M. Motes* 2 (holotype, FTG). Figs. 1–2, 3B, 4–5.

Similar to *Vanda limbata* Blume but distinguished by the yellow color with red brown tessellation of sepals and petals, and the yellow lip overlaid with red.

A climbing monopodial, epiphytic *herb.* 30–45 cm or more tall, 35–40 cm wide between leaf apices. *Leaves* glabrous, waxy, sessile, distichous, linear, 20–21 × 2.0–2.5 cm, the margins entire, the apex praemorse. *Inflorescence* axillary, an erect, cylindrical raceme, loosely 6–11 flowered, 15–20 cm long. *Flowers* pale yellow strongly overlaid with red brown, with stronger red brown tessellation. 5.1–5.2

cm horizontally, 5.1–5.2 cm vertically. *Dorsal sepal* spatulate, clawed, yellow, tessellated with red brown distally, spotted red brown basally, the margins clear yellow, 2.8 × 1.7 cm. *Lateral sepals* spatulate, clawed, yellow heavily overlaid with red brown tessellations, the margins clear yellow, 2.9 × 2.0 cm. *Petals* clawed, spatulate, obtuse, entire, yellow tessellated and spotted with red brown, the margins clear yellow, 2.9 × 1.7 cm. *Labellum* yellow suffused with red brown, three-lobed; midlobe deltoid, rolled longitudinally along the margins appearing narrowly pandurate in natural position, yellow suffused with red brown, with low longitudinal ridges and two small calli at base, 1.7 × 0.6 cm; lateral lobes lobes trapezoidal, yellow, 0.4 × 0.3 cm; spur slightly flattened, 0.5 × 0.2 cm. *Column* white, slightly thickened at base, 0.9 × 0.2 cm. *Anther cap* white, 0.2 × 0.2 cm. *Pollinia* 2, spherical, stiped.

DISTRIBUTION: Philippines. No specific locality recorded (Cootes 2011).

EPONYMY: Named for Mary Motes, noted for her long support of botanical and horticultural research.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Data deficient.

Plants from the Philippines identified as *V. helvola* Blume have long been reported (Chan *et al.* 1994: 307). Plants more recently discovered on Mindanao have initially been identified as *V. helvola*. James Cootes identifies the species’ locality as Cotabato where “It grows as an epiphyte at elevations of between 400 and 1500 metres” (Cootes 2011) The author obtained two plants of the species from Purification Orchids in the Philippines two years ago. These Philippine plants are of a much larger size than the Javanese *V. helvola*, with longer and narrower leaves (Fig. 6). The flowers, like the Javanese *V. helvola* (Fig. 7), are brown but tinged with green at the apices of the tepals (Fig. 8), whereas in *V. helvola* the color is uniform without the green apices and underlying stripes found in the Philippine plants. The lip of the Philippine plants is also superficially similar, with prominent appendages at the base of the mid-lobe but unlike the distinctly deltoid lip of *V. helvola*, the Mindanao plants have a narrowly pandurate mid-lobe darkest at the apex where *V. helvola* is light green (Roberts & Motes 2009). The Mindanao plants are here described as:





FIGURE 4. *Vanda mariae* occurs in various tones of red and orange. Photographs by Nelson Geraldino (A, B) and Rommel Arriola (C).

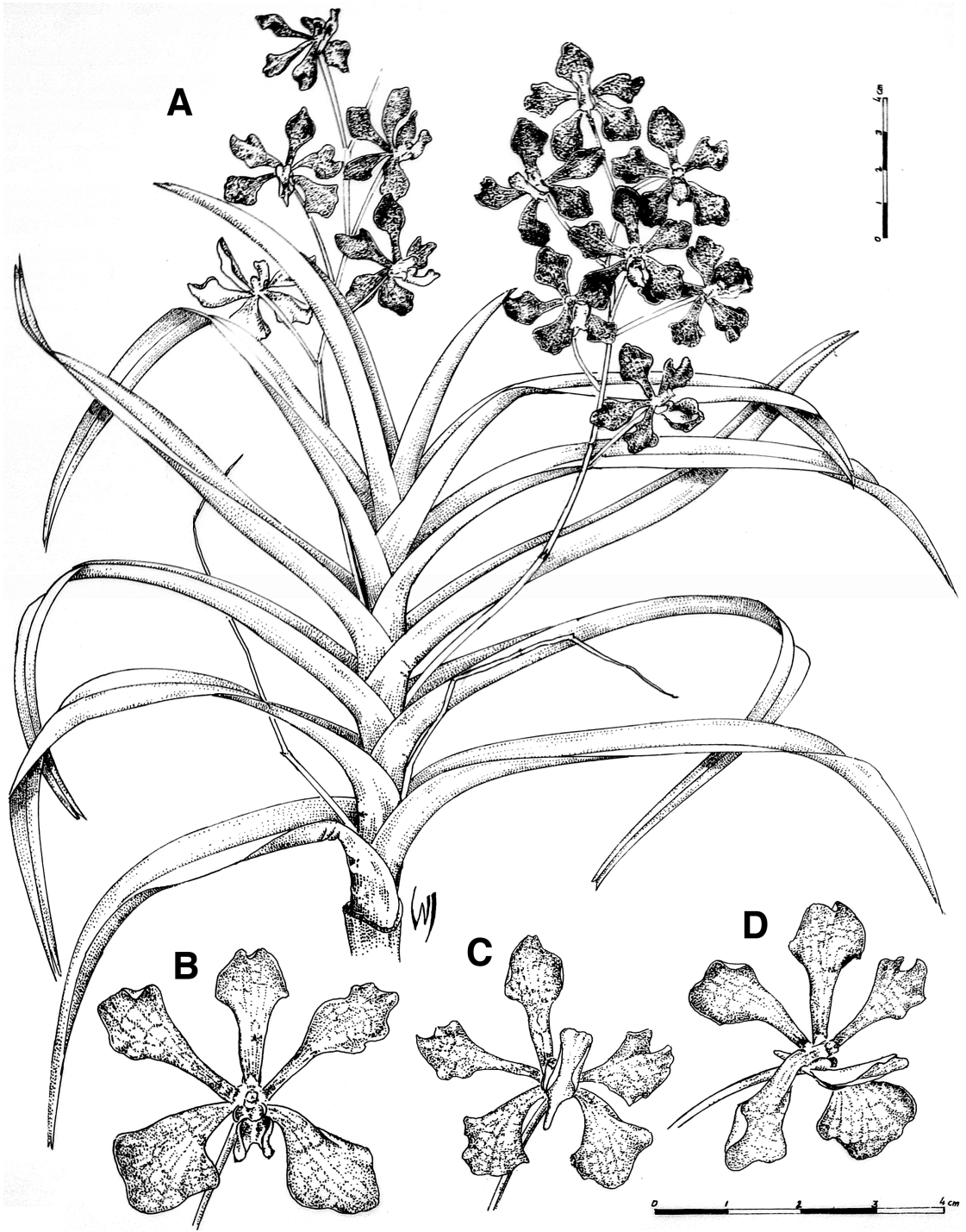


FIGURE 5. *Vanda mariae* Motes. A. Habit. B–D. Flower in frontal view, from below, and three quarters view. Drawing by Wes Jurgén based on the holotype.





FIGURE 6. *Vanda cootesii* is a taller plant with narrower leaves than *V. helvola*. The flowers appear non-resupinate here because the plant flowered after a recent importation. Photograph by Greg Allikas.



FIGURE 7. *Vanda helvola*. The lip of *V. helvola* is the most distinctly triangular in the genus. Photograph by Alan Hoffman.

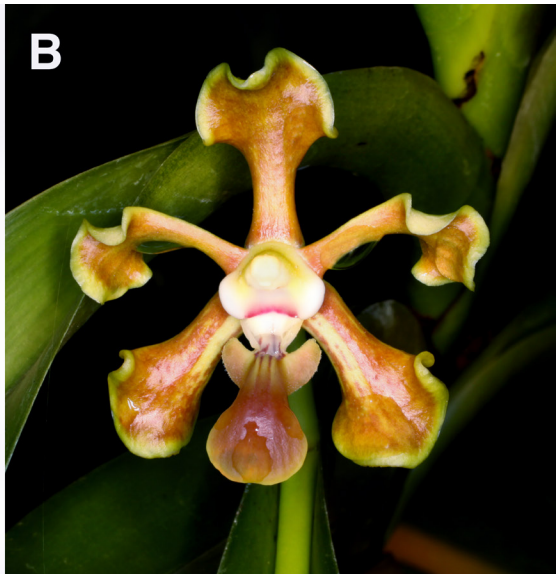
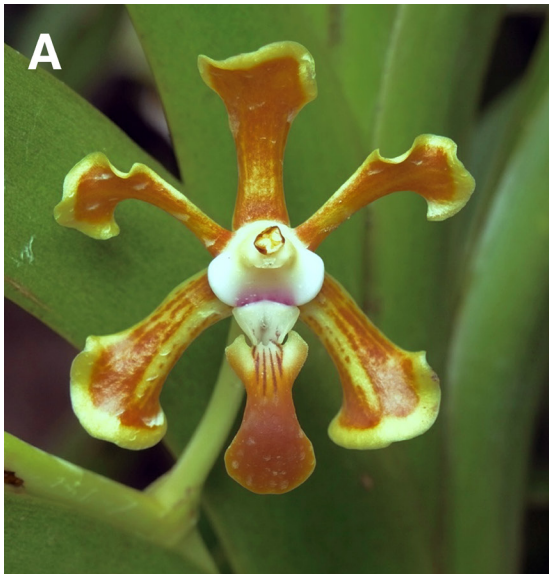


FIGURE 8. *Vanda cootesii* varies slightly in the proportion of yellow green to brown in the flowers. Photographs by Miguel de Leon (A) and Jim Cootes (B).

***Vanda cootesii* Motes, *sp. nov.***

TYPE: Philippines. Mindanao: Cotabata, cult. May 2014, *M. Motes 13* (holotype, FTG). Figs. 6, 8-9.

Similar to *Vanda helvola* Blume to which it bares superficial resemblance in color and lip shape. Distinguished by the green margins of sepals and petals and the narrow pandurate lip with flared base and the apex of the midlobe dark brown.

A climbing monopodial, epiphytic *herb.* 45–100 cm or more tall, 40–50 cm wide between leaf apices. *Leaves* glabrous, waxy, sessile, distichous, linear, 21–23 × 3.3–3.5 cm, the margins entire, the apex praemorse. *Inflorescence* axillary, a laxly 7-9 flowered raceme, 14–15 cm long. *Flower* yellow green with longitudinal ochre brown stripes, 3.5 cm horizontally, 4.0 cm vertically. *Dorsal sepal* spatulate, narrowly clawed, yellow green with ochre brown stripes coalescing to solid brown in the blade, with wavy

green margins, 2.0 × 1.2 cm. *Lateral sepals* narrowly clawed, spatulate, yellow green with ochre brown stripes coalescing to solid brown in blade, the margins green, wavy, 2.0 × 1.4 cm. *Petals* clawed, spatulate, yellow green with ochre brown stripes coalescing to solid brown in blade, with wavy green margins, 1.9 × 0.9 cm. *Labellum* yellow green overlaid with ochre brown, 1.0 × 1.5 cm, three-lobed; midlobe pandurate, narrower in the middle and broader at apex, the base narrowly flared, marked with very fine stripes of red brown; lateral lobes cream, oblong, curved inward at apex, 0.4 × 0.6 cm; spur oblong, flattened, 0.7 cm long. *Column* white, thickened at base, 0.3 × 0.6 cm. *Anther cap* white, 2 × 2 mm. *Pollinia* 2, spherical, stiped.

DISTRIBUTION: Philippines. Cotabata on Mindanao, 400–1500 m (Cootes 2011).

EPONYMY: Named for James Cootes, noted expert on Philippine orchid species.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Data deficient.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *VANDA* IN THE PHILIPPINES

1. Flowers smaller than 2 cm ..... *V. aurantiaca* spp. *philippinesis*
- 1a. Flowers larger than two cm ..... 2
2. Flowers with cylindrical columns ..... 3
3. Midlobe of lip with distinct lobules ..... (Section *Dactylobatae*): *V. mindanaoensis*
- 3a. Midlobe of lip without lobules ..... (Section *Lamellata*) 4
4. Flowers with longitudinal blades on mid-lobe of lip ..... (*V. lamellata*) 5
5. Flowers with distinctly two toned marking in lateral sepals ..... 6
6. Leaves, V-shaped, flowers deep yellow ..... *V. lamellata* var. *boxallii*
- 6a. Leaves flat, flowers pale yellow nearly white ..... *V. lamellata* var. *remediosa*
- 5a. Flowers with mottled or indistinctly shaped brown markings ..... 7
7. Lip yellow overlaid or striped with brown ..... *V. lamellata* var. *lamellata*
- 7a. Lip pink ..... *V. lamellata* var. *calayana*
- 4a. Flowers without longitudinal blades on lip ..... 8
8. Flowers predominantly brown/red ..... *V. roeblingiana*
- 8a. Flowers predominantly white ..... 9
9. Flowers without flared base to mid-lobe of lip ..... *V. sanderiana*
- 9a. Flowers with the base of lip midlobe flared ..... 10
10. Side lobes of lip large, nearly solid red ..... *V. barnesii*
- 10a. Side lobes of lip small, spotted red ..... *V. javierae*
- 2a. Flowers with the column thickened at base ..... (Section *Deltoglossa*) 11
11. Flowers predominantly white or cream ..... 12
12. Sepals and petals marked with red ..... *V. luzonica*
- 12a. Sepals and petals unmarked ..... *V. ustii*
- 11a. Flowers yellow, brown or red ..... 13

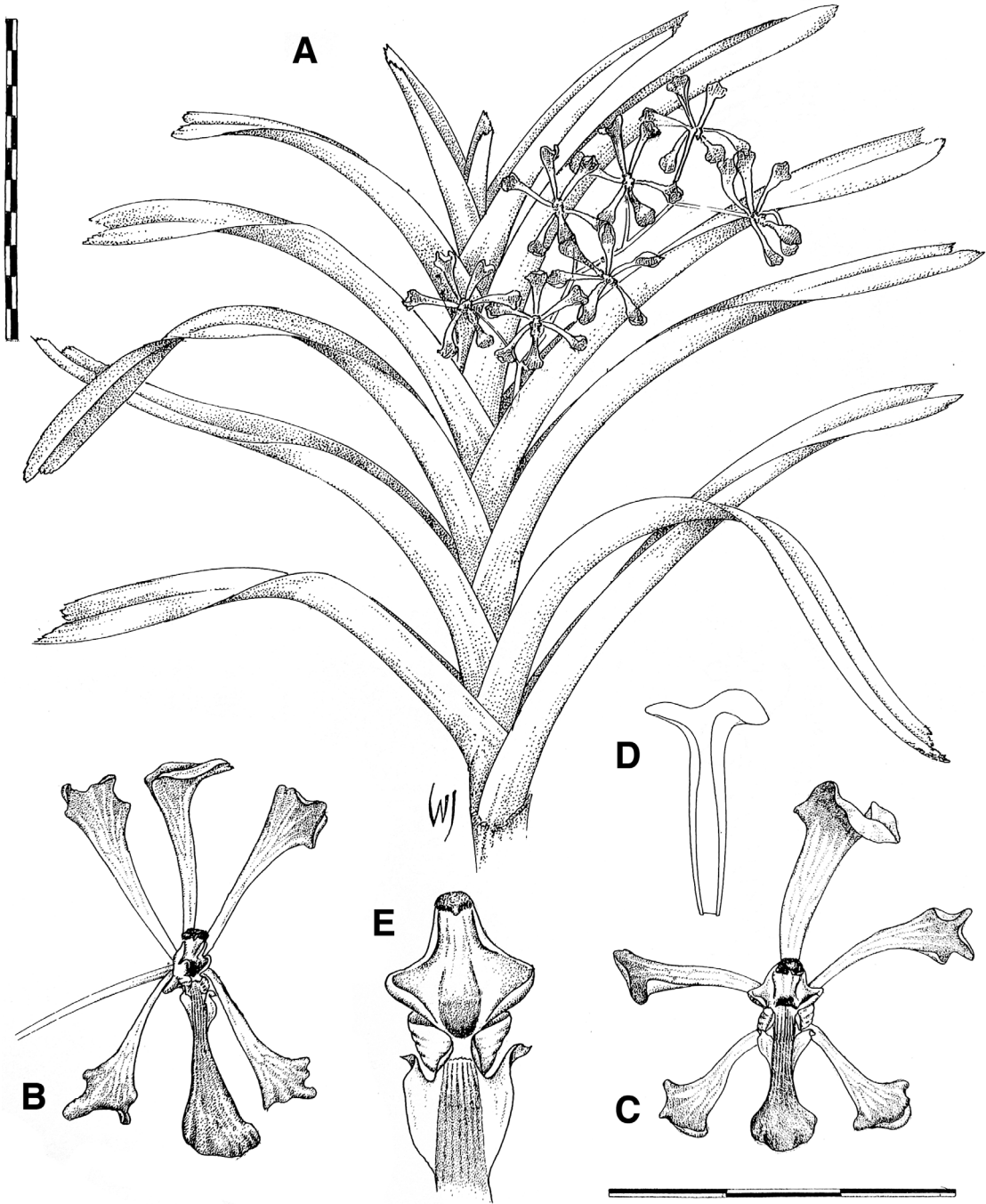


FIGURE 9. *Vanda cootesii* Motes. A. Habit. B–C. Flowers. D. Dorsal sepal, abaxial view. E. Base of the lip. Drawing by Wes Jurgén.



- 13. Flowers tessellated ..... *V. mariae*
- 13a. Flowers spotted or concolorous lacking tessellation ..... 14
- 14. Flowers solid red ..... *V. merrillii* var. *rotorii*
- 14a. Flowers yellow or yellow-brown ..... 15
- 15. Flowers yellow spotted red ..... *V. merrillii* var. *merrillii*
- 15a. Flowers concolorous ..... 16
- 16. Flowers golden yellow ..... *V. merrillii* var. *immaculata*
- 16a. Flowers concolor yellow brown tinged with green ..... *V. cootesii*

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