

ELLEANTHUS ESCOBARII Dodson, sp. nov.

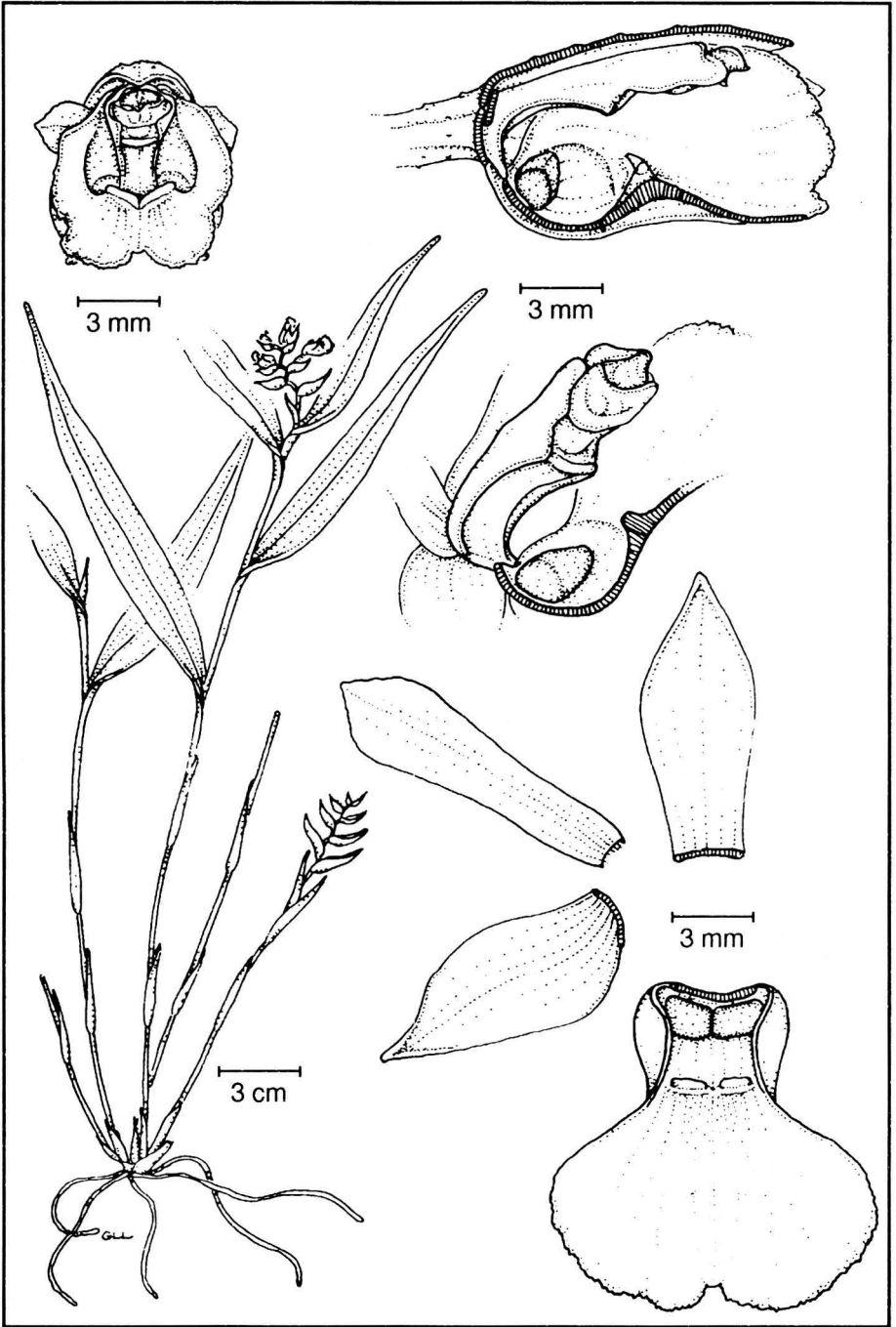
Similis *Elleanthi lateralis* Garay propter caules fertiles saepe aphyllus sed ab eo differt floribus laete viridibus bracteis intense rubris subtentis, corpusculis arte approximatis quadratis et mento infrastigmatico prominente.

TIPO: COLOMBIA: RISARALDA: Municipio de Pueblo Rico, road to T.V. station on Cerro Montezuma, 1900 m, 16 september 1991. *R. Escobar, J. F. Posada et al 5420A* (RPSC holotype).

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada en honor del Sr. Rodrigo Escobar R. de Medellín, Colombia, quién recolectó el ejemplar tipo y ha hecho una gran contribución al conocimiento de las orquídeas de Colombia y Ecuador.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Sr. Rodrigo Escobar R. of Medellín, Colombia who collected the type specimen and has made a major contribution to knowledge of the orchids of Colombia and Ecuador.

Plants epiphytic, to 60 cm tall. Roots fasciculate, flexuose, pilose. Stems cane-like, arcuate, elongate, slender, unbranched, the basal half leafless, few-sheathed, the apical half with 5 to 7 leaves or if fertile, commonly with 1 or 2 reduced leaves, or without leaves. Leaves stiff, plicate, prominently 5-veined, distichous, narrowly elliptic, long-acuminate, sessile, to 20 x 1.5 cm. Inflorescence terminal on leafless stems to 12 cm long or on normal stems, cylindric, subdensely 9- to 15-flowered. Bracts cymbiform, acute, as long as the ovaries, 1.5-0.8 x 0.7-0.2 cm, bright red. Flowers dark green.



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Dorsal sepal elliptic, acute, erect, hooding the column, to 11 x 4 mm; lateral sepals obliquely elliptic, acuminate, not carinate toward the apex, concave at the base, united at the base for 1.5 mm, to 10 x 4 mm. Petals oblong-ovate, acute, margins entire, to 1.2 x 4 mm. Lip subquadrate when spread, ventricose at the base containing a pair of subquadrate, globose, approximate corpuscles located at the base of the cavity, the apex of the cavity thickened to form a transverse ridge, the lamina of the lip broader at the apex than at the base, flabellate, broadly obovate, subtruncate across the apex, irregularly denticulate, to 12 x 14 mm. Column slender, to 10 mm long, without a hood extending over the anther, with a prominent infrastigmatic mentum. Ovary cylindrical, glabrous, to 12 mm long.

NOTAS: Esta especie es similar a *E. lateralis* Garay, *E. hirtzii* Dodson and *E. scharfii* Dodson en los tallos florales con frecuencia sin hojas, pero puede distinguirse por las flores de color verde oscuro sustentadas por brácteas moradas y la presencia de un mentón infraestigmático expandido.

NOTES: This species is similar to *E. lateralis* Garay, *E. hirtzii* Dodson and *E. scharfii* Dodson in the often leafless character of the fertile stems but is distinguished by the dark green flowers subtended by bright red-purple bracts, and the presence of an enlarged infrastigmatic mentum.