

EPIDENDRUM ACROBATESII Hágsater & Dodson
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 3

EPIDENDRUM ACROBATESII Hágsater et Dodson, sp. nov.

Type: ECUADOR: Loja: N slopes of Nudo de Sabanilla S of Yangana on road to Valladolid, 4°28'S 79°10'W, 2500 m, 24 Feb. 1988, *Molau & Eriksen 3191*. Holotype: GB! (illustration voucher). Isotypes: AAU! QCA!

Epidendro batesii Dodson affine sed floribus minoribus, ovario non inflato, labelli lobulis lateralibus transverse semiovatis, lobulo medio obcuneato truncato recedit.

Hierba terrestre, ramificada, 31 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, escasas en la base de las ramas inferiores, carnosas, delgadas, 1-2 mm de grosor. **Tallos** ramificados, tipo caña, teretes, rectos; de los entrenudos subapicales del tallo anterior 1.5-5 X 0.3-0.5 cm. **Hojas** generalmente 5, distribuidas a lo largo de la mitad apical del tallo, alternas, articuladas; vainas tubulares, rugosas, estriadas, 0.7-1.2 X 0.3-0.5 cm; lámina elíptica, mucronada, margen apical finamente eroso dentado, lisa, con una quilla dorsal, 2.2-3.8 X 0.7-1.4 cm. **Espata** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, florece una sola vez, racemosa a paniculada (con una rama pequeña en la base), suberecta, 5 cm de alto; raquis flexuoso, compacto, ornamentada con una quilla que se prolonga en cada bráctea floral. **Brácteas** florales mucho más cortas que el ovario, ovadas, conduplicadas, obtusas a agudas, 1-3 mm de largo. **Flores** 6-12, sucesivas, 1-2 abiertas a la vez, resupinadas, amarillo verdosas, fragancia no registrada. **Ovario** pedicelado, no inflado, terete, no ornamentado, 17-24 mm de largo. **Sépalos** extendidos, libres, angostamente elípticos, agudos, margen entero, 5-nervados, 10-12 X 3.5 mm. **Pétalos** extendidos, libres, linear oblanceolados, agudos, margen entero, 1-nervado, 12 X 1 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, ligeramente cordado, 5 X 7 mm; bicalloso, callos basales, pequeños; lóbulos laterales transversalmente semiovalados, ápice agudo, margen eroso; lóbulo medio obcuneado, truncado, margen apical eroso. **Columna** recta, delgada, 7 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Antera** subreniforme, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovoides; caudículas semigranulosas, ligeramente más largas que los polinios. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** de 1/2 de largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** penetrando 1/2 del ovario, no ornamentado. **Cápsula** no vista.

Terrestrial, branching herb. **Roots** from the base and lower stems. **Stems** branching, cane-like, terete, from a subapical internode of the previous stem. **Leaves** generally 5, distributed along the apical half of the stems; sheath tubular, rugose, striated; blade elliptic, mucronate, apical margin finely erose-dentate. **Spathe** lacking. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose to paniculate (with a small basal branch), suberect, rachis short, compact, flexuous, ornamented with a prominent keel below each floral bract. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, conduplicate, obtuse to acute. **Flowers** 6-12, successive, 1-2 open at one time, resupinate, greenish-yellow. **Ovary** terete, not inflated, unornamented. **Sepals** spreading, free, narrowly elliptic, acute, 5-veined. **Petals** spreading, free, linear-oblanceolate, acute, margin entire, 1-veined. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, slightly cordate, bicallose, the calli basal, small; lateral lobes transversely semiovalate, apex acute, margin erose; midlobe obcuneate, truncate, apical margin erose. **Column** straight. **Clinandrium** reduced, entire. **Anther** subreniform, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovate, caudicles somewhat longer than the pollinia. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating half the ovary, unornamented.

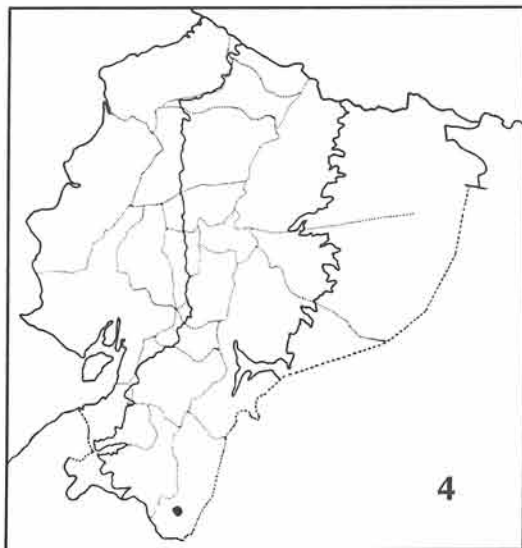
OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from Ecuador, from the Province of Loja, slopes of the Nudo de Sabanilla south of Yangana. Terrestrial in both virgin and disturbed cloud forest, 2500 m altitude. Flowering in February probably over a long period.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum acrobatesii* appears to have at first sight the habit of a plant of the cardiophyllum group, but it belongs to the batesii group, and is recognized by its branching stem, elliptic-lanceolate, acute leaves, and a suberect peduncle and rachis, the successive flowers, one open at a time, the obcuneate midlobe of the lip and the large lateral lobes transversely semiovalate, the apex acute. It is very close to *E. batesii* which has larger flowers, a more prominently inflated ovary, and ranges along the Pacific lowlands (250-600 m), in southern Colombia and Ecuador.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek *ἀκρος*, summit, in reference to the high altitude where it grows, and Bates, from *Epidendrum batesii*, the closely related species.



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