

Epidendrum Alfaroii A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba medioeris. Caules inferne laxè ramosi, vaginis tubulatis fere omnino obtecti. Folia saepissime duo, elliptico-oblonga, valde obtusa. Racemi terminales, erecti, laxè pluriflori. Flores carnosì. Sepala lateralia oblique subelliptica, acuta. Sepalum dorsale obovato-ellipticum. Petala spathulato-cuneata. Labellum trilobatum, lobis lateralibus laceris, lobo intermedio multo minore integro.

Plant 16 to more than 25 cm. high (in the type specimen the stem is broken off below). Roots fibrous, flexuous, glabrous, in tufts at the lower nodes of the stem. Stems loosely branching below, almost wholly concealed by ancipitous tubular sheaths which waste into fibers in anthesis (so that the lower portions of the stems are naked), somewhat flexuous. Leaves 1-3 (usually 2), at and near the apex of the stem, elliptic-oblong, 4.4-6.8 cm. long, 8-18 mm. wide, the uppermost leaf sometimes much smaller, abruptly rounded at the apex which is minutely bilobed and apiculate, slightly narrowed to the sessile base, coriaceous, strongly ascending, the mid-nerve sharply carinate beneath. Peduncle up to the raceme 2.7-3.7 cm. long, ancipitous, bialate, with 1 or 2 short infundibuliform sheaths. Inflorescence racemose, loosely 6- to 9-flowered. Rachis gently fractiflex, 4.5-6.5 cm. long, ancipitously winged. Floral bracts short, infundibuliform, extended into a triangular point, dorsally carinate. Flowers fleshy. Sepals horizontally spreading. Lateral sepals obovate-elliptic, strongly oblique, 6 mm. long, 3.9 mm. wide near the middle, acute and thickened at the apex, many-nerved. Dorsal sepal similar, obovate-elliptic, 6 mm. long, about 3.4 mm. wide above the middle, subacute. Petals spatulate-cuneate, 5.2 mm. long, 3 mm. wide, broadly rounded at the apex with a minute apicule. Labellum adnate to the column to about the middle; lamina white, strongly concave and surrounding the column in natural position, semiorbicular when spread out, 3-lobed, 4.9 mm. long, about 8 mm. wide; lateral lobes suborbicular in outline, irregularly and deeply lacerate with 6-8 linear or triangular-linear teeth of which the forward one on each side is abruptly recurved, a similar tooth on each side below the apex on the under surface; middle lobe much smaller, triangular-subquadrate, about 1.25 mm. long and subequally wide at the base, terminating abruptly in a rounded or subacute apex, very fleshy and subquadrate in cross-section. Disc traversed in the middle by 3 rather high approximate keels, the lateral ones ending abruptly below the base of the middle lobe, the central extending into the middle lobe and near its base raised into a blunt point. A lower indistinct keel lies near the base of the lamina on each side. Column very stout, dilated upward, about 4.1 mm. long. Pollinia obliquely complanate-pyriform.

The description was made from herbarium specimens.

Epidendrum Alfaroii is rather closely allied to *E. Wercklei* Schltr., but it differs in its racemose inflorescence, dissimilar lobes of the lip and keels. The color of the flowers is also distinctive.

COSTA RICA, La Fuente, Anastasio Alfaro 174, August 23, 1925. 1200 meters altitude. Sepals and petals chocolate color, lip white. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 31331.)