



EPIDENDRUM AMARUËNSE Hągsater, Collantes & E.Santiago

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Type: PERU: Huancavelica: Prov. Tayacaja, Dist. Huachocolpa: Bosque de Amaru, 2450 m, 22 febrero 2005, *Benjamín Collantes 1001*. Holotype: USM! (Illustration voucher.) Isotype: MOL!

Epidendro jativae Dodson simile sed foliis brevioribus, floribus luteis usque viridi-ochraceis, petalis latioribus ovatis, labello reniformi bilobato, recedit.

Hierba epífita, monopodial, ramificada, 17-20 cm de alto. **Raíces** de la base del tallo inicial, carnosas, delgadas, blancas, 1-2 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, donde cada tallo nuevo se origina de los entrenudos apicales del tallo anterior, tipo caña, terete, delgado, erectos; el principal 10-11.5 x 0.3 cm, los secundarios 4.5-5.7 x 0.25 cm. **Hojas** 8 en el tallo principal, 4 en las ramificaciones, distribuidas hacia la mitad apical del tallo, alternas, articuladas, suberectas; vaina tubular, 9-14 x 2-3 mm; lámina linear lanceolada, redondeada, bilobada y apiculada, margen entero, 2.5-4 x 0.3-0.4 cm. **Bráctea** espátacea ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, arqueada, corta, florece una sola vez, 1 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, terete, delgado, recto, 4 mm de largo; raquis terete, delgado, recto, 6 mm de largo. **Bráctea floral** ca. de la mitad del largo del ovario, linear triangulares, acuminadas, 4 mm de largo. **Flores** 4-8, simultáneas, no resupinadas; color amarillo a verde ocráceo, el margen de los sépalos teñidos de rojo parduzco, dorsalmente cobrizo, antera blanco verdoso; sin fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado, 10 mm de largo. **Sépalos** extendidos, libres, romboide ovados, subagudos, 3-nervados, margen entero, dorsalmente lisos; el dorsal 5 x 3 mm; los laterales oblicuos, 4 x 5 mm. **Pétalos** extendidos, libres, ovados, subagudos, 3-nervados, margen entero, 5 x 4 mm. **Labello** unido a la columna, entero, reniforme, bilobado en el ápice, margen diminutamente papiloso; escalo, provisto en la base de 5 quillas carnosas, paralelas, romas, cortas, 5 x 8.5 mm. **Columna** arqueada en la base con respecto al ovario, arriba recta, gruesa, corta, con una cavidad ventral a la cual se accesa por una hendidura larga y angosta; 4 mm de largo; las alas apicales rectas. **Clinandrio** corto, margen entero. **Antera** reniforme, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales; caudículas suaves y granulosas, más largas que los polinios. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Nectario** poco profundo, sin penetrar el ovario, amplio, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, monopodial, branching herb. **Roots** from the base of the basal stem, fleshy, thin, white. **Stems** simple, the new stems originating from a subapical internode of the previous stem, cane-like, terete, thin, erect, straight. **Leaves** 8, distributed throughout the apical half of the stem, alternate, articulate, suberect; sheath tubular; blade linear-lanceolate, rounded, bilobed, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, arching, short, flowering only once; peduncle short, terete, thin, straight; rachis terete, thin, straight. **Floral bracts** about half the length of the ovary, linear-triangular, acuminate. **Flowers** 4-8, simultaneous, non-resupinate, yellow to ochre-green, the margin of the sepals tinged with brownish-red, dorsally copper-colored. **Ovary** terete, thin, smooth. **Sepals** spreading, free, rhomboid-ovate, subacute, 3-veined, margin entire, dorsally smooth; the lateral sepals oblique. **Petals** spreading, free, ovate, subacute, 3-veined, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, entire, reniform, apex bilobed, margin minutely papillose; ecallose, provided at the base with 5 fleshy, parallel, rounded, short, keels. **Column** arching at the base with respect to the ovary, then straight, thick, short, with a ventral cavity which is accessed through a long, narrow slit; the apical wings straight. **Clinandrium** hood short, margin entire. **Anther** reniform, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, subequal; caudicles soft and granulate, longer than the pollinia. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** shallow, without penetrating the ovary, wide, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: PERU: Pasco: Oxapampa, San Alberto, Cordillera de Yanachaga, 2100 m, 6 III 1986, *van der Werff 8483*, MO! Ibid., 2300-2500 m, *van der Werff 8438*, USM!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the higher cordillera oriental of the Andes in central Peru, in cloud forest, epiphytic at 2100-2450 m altitude. Flowering from February to March.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum amaruense* belongs to the Diothonea Group and Subgroup which is characterized by the branching plants, linear-lanceolate to oblong leaves, the apex bilobed, racemose, arching-nutant inflorescence, membranaceous flowers (rarely fleshy), the entire to 3-lobed, ecallose lip with the margin erose and without or with 1-10 thin, smooth to erose keels, the column completely free to obliquely united to the lip, the anther reniform. The species is recognized by the small, non-resupinate, yellow to ochre-green flowers (sepals 4-5 mm long) with wide floral segments, the ovate petals 4 mm wide and the lip reniform, bilobed. It is similar to *Epidendrum jativae* Dodson which shares the non-resupinate flowers, but has longer leaves, up to 10 cm long, 1.5 mm wide, oblong petals, and the 3-keeled lip 3-lobed with the midlobe small and itself bilobed. It is vegetatively similar to *Epidendrum cochabambanum* Dodson & Vásquez which has linear petals 0.8-1.5 mm wide, and a transversely elliptic with the apex slightly 4-lobed, and forming a wide throat with the column. *Epidendrum gastrochilum* Kraenzl., also from Peru, has much larger flowers (sepals 11-13 mm long) and the lip is ovate-orbicular with 6 laminar keels, has a much longer column (9-10 mm long), and shares the curious narrow cavity on the underside of the column which is accessed through a narrow, elongate slit, a feature first described in the Colombian *Epidendrum cléristocoleum* Hágsater & E.Santiago and shared by *Epidendrum cottoniiflorum* (Rchb.f.) Hágsater.



CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: In reference to the grandiose Amaru Forest, where the pretype was collected. The term *amaru* in the Inca language refers to a great serpent, such as the giant *Boa* or *Anaconda* found in the forest. The forest is very rich in orchid species, and has yielded several new species.