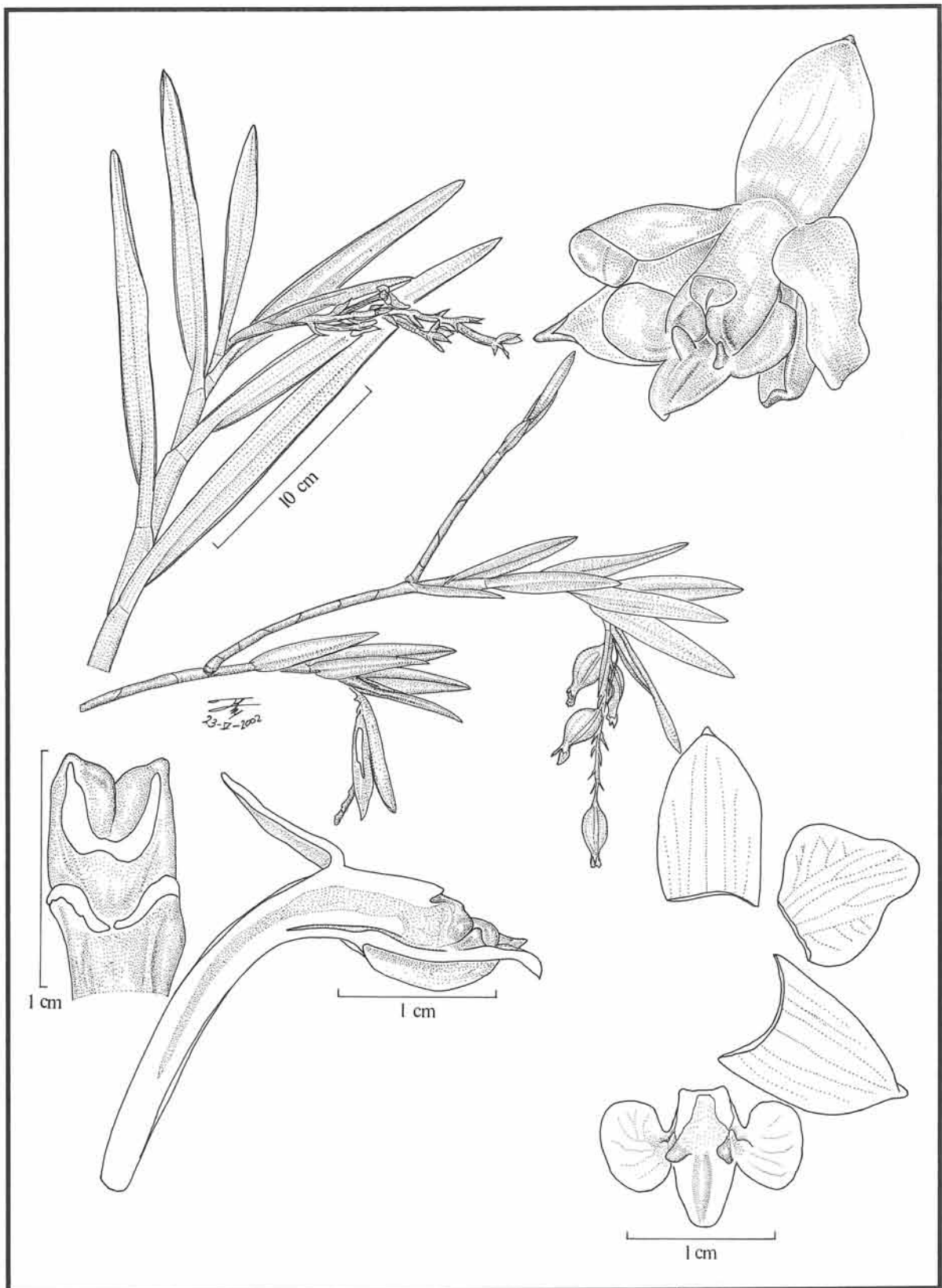




EPIDENDRUM AMPEIOSPATHUM Hágsater & Dodson
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

EPIDENDRUM AMPELOSPATHUM Hágsater et Dodson, sp. nov.

Type: ECUADOR: Morona Santiago: Gualaquiza, Parroquia San Miguel de Cuyes, Bosque Protector Tambillo, 03°16'21"S 78°50'53"W, 2600 m, epiphytic, 1 July 1997, **Linder Suin & Holger Zhunio 259**. Holotype: QCNE! (Illustration voucher). Isotype: AMO!

Epidendro klotzschiano Rchb.f. simile sed planta scandens, quoque caule in caulis antiqui dimidio nato, caulibus brevibus 5-7-foliatis, petalis late trullatis abhorrens.

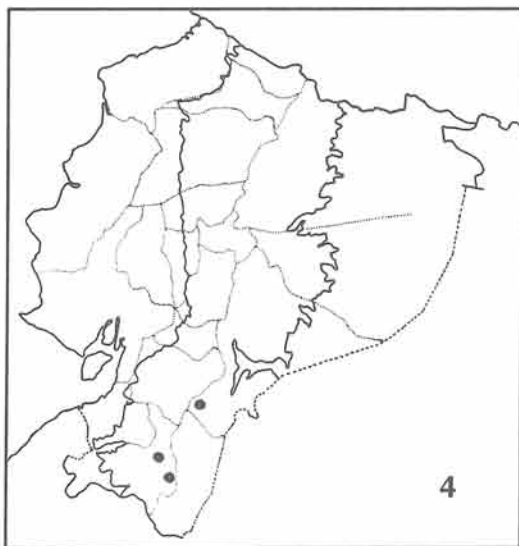
Herb epífita y litófito, escandente, erecta o arqueada en ejemplares maduros, de crecimiento sucesivo lateral, hasta 2.5 m de alto. **Raíces** gruesas, muy largas, aparentemente solo de la base de los tallos inferiores. **Tallos** producidos cerca de la parte media del tallo anterior, a la altura de la primera hoja, tipo caña, teretes en la base, lateralmente aplanados en la parte foliosa, gruesos, ca. 20-30 x 0.7-1.0 cm. **Hojas** 6-7 por tallo, distribuidas a lo largo de la mitad apical, alternas, erectas, coriáceas; vainas tubulares, estriadas y rugosas, 1.6-3.5 x 0.45-1.0 cm; lámina angostamente lanceolada, aguda, con una quilla dorsal prominente, diminutamente apiculada, lisa, margen entero, ligeramente revuelto en ejemplares secos, 11.2-18.5 x 1.3-1.6 cm. **Brácteas espatáceas** 1-2, tubulares en el 1/3 basal, abiertas en los 2/3 apicales, agudas, margen entero semiconduplicado hacia la zona media apical, estriadas cuando seca en pardo claro, 8.5-9.1 cm de largo. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, arqueada, florece una sola vez, 9.0-12.5 cm de largo; pedúnculo, terete a lateralmente aplanado, grueso, estriado, recto, 4-5 cm de largo, ocasionalmente provisto en la parte media de una bráctea linear lanceolada, subacuminada, margen entero, abrazadora, 3.1 cm de largo; raquis terete, grueso, ligeramente flexuoso en la base y recto hacia el ápice, 5.5-8.0 cm de largo. **Brácteas florales** mucho más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, agudas, abrazadoras, gradualmente más pequeñas hacia el ápice, 6-12 mm de largo. **Flores** hasta 12, simultáneas, amarillas a verde amarillentas; sin fragancia. **Ovario** terete, (en la ilustración en proceso de formación de cápsula). **Sépalos** libres, cortamente oblongos, subagudos, diminutamente apiculados, 7-nervados, margen entero, 10.5-14 x 6.3-7.5 mm; los laterales entreabiertos; el dorsal reflexo. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, libres, anchamente ovados subtrulados, redondeados, 5-nervados, las nervaduras laterales cortamente ramificadas, margen entero, 8.4-8.6 x 8.4-9.2 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, base profundamente cordada, margen entero, 7.8 x 12.3 mm; bicalloso, los callos erectos y prominentes, en forma de cuernos, separados, alargados hasta la base del lóbulo medio, disco unicarinado, la carina delgada, roma, lisa, alargada hasta cerca del ápice del lóbulo medio; lóbulos laterales reniformes, redondeados, 4.5 x 5.7 mm; lóbulo medio triangular, ápice truncado, redondeado, 3.9 x 3.9 mm. **Columna** recta, gruesa, 10 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Antera** no vista. **Polinios** no vistos. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** apenas penetrando el perianto, liso, no inflado. **Cápsula** elipsoidal, 4 x 2 cm; cuello y pedicelo muy cortos, de color verde claro, perianto persistente.

Epiphytic and lithophytic, scandent, erect to arching herb, of successive lateral growth. **Stems** produced from the middle of the previous stem, cane-like, terete at the base, laterally compressed above. **Leaves** 6-7 per stem, distributed throughout the upper half of the stem, erect, coriaceous; sheath tubular, striated, rugose; blade narrowly lanceolate, acute, smooth, margin entire, somewhat revolute in dried specimens. **Spathaceous bracts** 1-2, tubular below, conduplicate above, acute, margin entire, light brown when dry. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, arching, flowering only once. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, triangular, acute. **Flowers** ca. 12, simultaneous, yellow to yellowish green, without fragrance. **Ovary** terete (the illustration prepared from a pollinated flower). **Sepals** partly spreading, the dorsal reflexed, free, short oblong, subacute, minutely apiculate, 7-veined, margin entire. **Petals** partly spreading, free, widely ovate subtrullate, rounded, 5-veined, the lateral veins short branched, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, the base deeply cordate, margin entire, bicallose, the calli erect, prominent, horn-like, widely separate near the base of the midlobe, a low fleshy keel runs down the middle of the midlobe; lateral lobes reniform, obliquely orbicular, rounded; midlobe triangular, apex truncate, rounded. **Column** short, thick. **Clinandrium** hood reduced, entire. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** barely penetrating the ovary, smooth, not inflated. **Capsule** ellipsoid, with short pedicel and neck, perianth persistent.

OTHER SPECIMENS: ECUADOR: Loja: Villonaco, 2900 m, 5 X 1946, *Espinosa* 709, AMES 109666! NY! Parque Nacional Podocarpus, E. of Nudo de Cajanuma, 2900 m, 21 IX 1988, *Madsen* 75440, LOJA!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the type, on the eastern slopes of the Andes in central Ecuador, at 2600-2900 m altitude, on tree trunks and branches of trees. Flowering in June. Fruiting in July and later.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum ampelopspathum* would appear to belong to the *Alpicolum* Group, *Klotzschianum* Subgroup, and at first sight is reminiscent of *E. klotzschianum* Rchb.f. with which it shares the lanceolate leaves, arching, racemose inflorescence subtended by 1-2 large, acute spathaceous bracts, and the fleshy flowers with a 3-lobed lip. The new species, however, has a peculiar habit, with relatively short stems produced from middle of the previous stem, at around the first leaf, producing plants up to 2.5 m tall, the stems with only 5-7 leaves, which are less than 2 cm wide, and the yellow to yellowish green flowers with very wide, trullate petals. *Epidendrum klotzschianum* Rchb. f. has tall, simple stems, narrower floral segments, a rectangular midlobe of the lip and narrow, oblanceolate petals.



Epidendrum prasinum Schltr. has a pendent, branching habit, with narrowly elliptic petals. Most other species with spathaceous bracts, and racemose, many flowered inflorescences and 3-lobed lips have caespitose plants, with the stems produced from the base of the previous stem. Only *Epidendrum alpicoloscandens* Hágsater & Dodson, produces the new stems about 1/5th from the base of the previous stem, and the plants are relatively short, with very narrow floral segments.

NOTE: The type specimens represent only the apical, leafy portion of two stems, the flowers appear to have been self fertilized, are wilted, and the ovary beginning to thicken. The plant habit was prepared from a photograph provided by one of the authors and represents the upper portion of a plant in fruit.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek ἀμπελος- climbing plant, vine, and spathe, in reference to the climbing modular habit of the plant and the prominent spathaceous bracts that subtend the inflorescence, an unusual combination of characters in the genus.