



EPIDENDRUM AMPLEXIGASTRIUM Hágster & Dodson  
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 2

Plate 304  
ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 3. 1999

**EPIDENDRUM AMPLEXIGASTRIUM** Hágster et Dodson, sp. nov.

Holotype: COLOMBIA: Cult. en Colomborquídeas, posteriormente en AMO, pressed 23 May 1996, *sub J. L. Aguirre sub E. Hágster 11545* COL! (illustration voucher). Clonotypes: 17 Nov. 1997 AMO! 11 Dec. 1997 QCNE! SEL!

*Epidendro marsupiali* Lehman & Kraenzl. simile sed labelli base cuneata, lobulis lateralibus semiovatis, in positione naturali columnam tegentibus, supra illam imbricatis et suum apicem occultantibus, necnon disco excavato papilloso, recedit.

Hierba epífita, reptante, hasta 18 cm de alto. Raíces basales, delgadas, carnosas, blancas, de 0.8-1 mm de grosor. Tallos sencillos, tipo caña, teretes, rectos, ligeramente engrosados hacia la parte media, carnosos, formados por 6-8 entrenudos, el tallo nuevo originándose del 4º ó 5º nudo del tallo anterior, 2.5-8 x 0.28-0.42 cm; la mitad basal cubierta por vainas no foliosas, que con el tiempo se deshacen dejando el tallo desnudo. Hojas 3-5, desiguales, distribuidas hacia la mitad apical del tallo; vaina lisa y verde-rojiza cuando frescas, con barras transversales amarillentas; lámina carnosa, con la parte abaxial mirando al sustrato, ovada, bilobada, sulcada, con una quilla baja en el dorso, más prominente hacia la base y el ápice, coloración en el envés verde oscuro, frecuentemente con barras amarillentas transversales, haz verde oscuro a amarillento casi sin color verde, 1-2.9 x 0.7-1.4 cm. Espata conduplicada, angostamente obovada, obtusa, 1.2 x 0.4-0.6 cm. Inflorescencia apical, del crecimiento maduro, florece una sola vez, racemosa, corta; pedúnculo de 8 mm de largo, oculto dentro de la espata. Brácteas florales mucho más cortas que el ovario, angostamente triangulares, acuminadas, de 3-6 x 1.2 mm. Ovario ligeramente inflado ventralmente en el tercio apical, terete, no ornamentado, 12-15 x 1.8 mm. Flores 2, no resupinadas, simultáneas, cobrizas, las nervaduras de los sépalos y pétalos rojizas, el lóbulo medio del labelo verde claro, en ocasiones con ligera fragancia nocturna. Sépalos entreabiertos, angostamente lanceolados, agudos, 7-nervados, 12-14 x 3 mm; el dorsal extendido; los laterales oblicuos. Pétalos entreabiertos, linear-elípticos, agudos, 3-nervados, 12-13 x 1.6 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, trilobado, hastado, base cuneada, 11-12 x 8 mm; disco excavado, ornamentado con pequeñas papillas, bicalloso, callos paralelos, formando quillas longitudinales; lóbulos laterales pequeños, semiobovados, ocupando la mitad del largo del labelo, abrazando y ocultando a la columna, empalmándose arriba de esta; lóbulo medio triangular, agudo. Columna corta, gruesa, 3 mm de largo. Clinandrio corto, entero. Antera reniforme, 4-locular. Polinios 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales; caudículas suaves y granulosas, ligeramente más largas que los polinios; viscidio semiliquido, transparente. Rostelo apical, hendido. Lóbulos laterales del estigma prominentes, de la mitad de largo de éste. Nectario penetrando 1/3 del ovario, ensanchado dentro del ovario formando una vesícula alargada, no ornamentado. Cápsula no vista.

Repent epiphyte. Roots basal, thin. Stems terete, thickened, fleshy, the new stem arising from the middle of the previous stem. Leaves 3-5, unequal, distributed throughout the apical half of the stem, deep green variously colored with purple, frequently transversely barred with purple; sheath smooth; blade articulate, ovate, apex bilobed. Spatha conduplicate, narrowly obovate, obtuse. Inflorescence apical, from mature stem, flowering only once, racemose. Floral bracts much shorter than the ovary, narrowly triangular, acuminate. Ovary somewhat inflated ventrally at the apical third, unornamented. Flowers 2, non-resupinate, simultaneous, copper colored with veins of sepals and petals reddish, apical lobe of lip light green. Sepals narrowly lanceolate, acute, margin somewhat revolute, 7-veined. Petals partly spreading, linear-elliptic, acute, 3-veined. Lip united to the column, 3-lobed, hastate, base cuneate; disc excavate, papillose, bicallose, the calli laminar, parallel; lateral lobes small, semiobovate, occupying about half the length of the lip, upturned in natural position so as to embrace the apex of the column hiding it and tightly overlapping; mid-lobe triangular, acute. Column short, thick. Clinandrium short, margin entire. Anther reniform, 4-celled. Pollinia 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, subequal. Nectary penetrating 1/3 of the ovary, widened within, unornamented.



OTHER SPECIMENS: ECUADOR: Cotopaxi: Quevedo-Latacunga, arriba de Macuchi, Hágster 7592 et al. AMO! Napo: km 92 Quito-Baeza, Dodson 15888 & Hirtz RPSC! Pichincha: Tandapi, Dodson 15673 et al. RPSC!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Ecuador on both the Amazon and the Pacific sides of the Andes, 1100-1850 m altitude, apparently widespread but uncommon in wet forests. Colombia, known only from a cultivated plant in Medellín, the origin lost. Flowering from March to June.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum amplexigastrium* belongs to the *E. megagastrum* Lindl. group which is recognized by the sympodial habit, the ovate spathe and the excavated papillose disc of the lip. It is identified by the trilobed and cuneate lip, with the lateral lobes semiobovate and directed forwards, embracing the column in natural position so that the lobes are tightly overlapping over the column and hiding its apex. *E. marsupiale* is the most similar species, with a lip similar in both shape and size, but the lateral lobes are separated by deep sinuses and spreading in front of the column instead of embracing it and overlapping. *E. megagastrum* has a triangular, cordate lip and the sides do not cover the apex of the column.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD (data deficient).

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin "amplexor", embracing and "gastrum", belly, in reference to the group of species with excavated, papillate, disc of the lip.