



EPIDENDRUM ANDRETTAE Hágsater & Dodson
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

EPIDENDRUM ANDRETTAE Hágsater et Dodson, sp. nov.

Type: ECUADOR: Azuay: Hort. Paute, photographed (color slides) 24 November 1988, *Angel M. Andretta s.n.* Holotype: the Illustration, AMO! Xerox copies: AMES! COL! K! MO! QCA! QCNE! SEL! USM!

Epidendro oxapampensi Hágsater simile sed columna geniculata ovarium respectu, floribus majoribus, segmentis floralibus acuminatis, petalis 5-nervatis, labello ad basem orbiculari, ad apicem longe triangulari divergens.

Hierba colgante, cespitosa, 12 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, escasas, carnosas, delgadas, blancas. **Tallos** agregados, cortos, cubiertos por brácteas papiráceas; vainas foliares subinfundibuliformes, finamente estriadas, 5 x 0.16 cm. **Hojas** 2 por tallo, agregadas en el ápice de los mismos, alternas, colgantes; lámina elíptica, ápice subagudo, margen entero, coriácea, lisa, de color verde azulado glauco, 6-8 x 3-4.7 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, sésil, colgante, pauciflora, florece una sola vez, 6 cm de largo (incluyendo la flor); pedúnculo sésil. **Brácteas florales** no vistas. **Flores** 2, simultáneas, grandes, color verdoso con rayas moradas, labelo con puntos morados; sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado, 22 mm de largo. **Sépalos** extendidos, libres, deltados, ápice acuminado, 7-nervados, margen entero, 36 x 15-17 mm; los laterales ligeramente oblicuos. **Pétalos** extendidos, ovados, acuminados, 5-nervados, margen entero, 30 x 12 mm. **Labelo** unido de manera oblicua a la columna, entero, orbicular en la base, angostamente triangular en el ápice, cóncavo, margen denticulado eroso en la base a entero en el ápice, 30 x 0.6-14 mm; escaloso y desprovisto de quillas. **Columna** recta, gruesa, formando un ángulo de 135° con respecto al ovario, 12 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Antera** reniforme. **Polinios** no vistos. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** no visto. **Cápsula** no vista.

Pendent, caespitose herb. **Roots** basal, fleshy, thin. **Stems** aggregate, short, covered by papery bracts. **Leaves** 2 per stem, aggregate at the apex, alternate, pendent; blade elliptic, apex subacute, margin entire, coriaceous, smooth, glaucous blue-green. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, sessile, pendent, flowering only once. **Flowers** 2, simultaneous, large, greenish with purple lines, lip blotched with purple. **Ovary** terete, thin. **Sepals** spreading, free, deltoid, acuminate, 7-veined, margin entire; the laterals slightly oblique. **Petals** spreading, ovate, acuminate, 5-veined, margin entire. **Lip** obliquely united to the column, entire, base orbicular, apex narrowly triangular, concave, margin denticulate-erose at the base, the apical triangle entire; ecallose and without keels. **Column** straight, thick, forming a 135° angle with the ovary. **Clinandrium** hood reduced, entire. **Anther** reniform. **Rostellum** apical, slit.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

OTHER RECORDS: PERU: Pasco: Oxapampa, Hacienda San Jorge along Río Gramazu, 1800-2000 m, col. J. Del Castillo, 13 VII 1996, *Bennett* 7656. Published illustration IOP: 472. Voucher said to be deposited at USM. [The illustration shows three flowers of different sizes. It is not clear whether they correspond to the same plant or various plants. In any case, *Bennett* 1887, also cited in the text corresponds to *E. sophronitis* Linden & Rchb. f. AMES!] *Epidendrum sophronitoides* Linden & Rchb. f., in *Bot. Mag.* 6314. 1877. Probably ECUADOR: as *Epidendrum sophronitis* Rchb. f., 7-8000 ft, June 1877, *Lehmann*, cited in *Reichenbach f., G. H.*, 1878, *Otia Bot. Hamburgensis* 11.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the single cultivated plant, probably from Azuay in southern Ecuador, at higher elevations. Flowering in November.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum andrettae* belongs to the *Kalopternix* Group, characterized by the erect or pendant, 1 or 2-leaved pseudobulbs, glaucous leaves, resupinate flowers with a wide-trullate lip, the margin fleshy-erose. The species is recognized by the pendant habit, single, long leaves, the column geniculate with the ovary, at a 135° angle, and large flowers with acuminate segments, the petals 5-veined; the coloration of the segments is produced by dots in straight lines on the sepals, partially on the petals, and loosely covering the disc of the lip. It is vegetatively very similar to *Epidendrum oxapampense* Hágsater which has smaller flowers, acute floral segments and, the lip short apiculate, the petals 3-veined and the coloration of the flowers green with a single, large pink to maroon blotch on the lip. *Epidendrum sophronitis* Linden & Rchb. f. has an upright habit, a single cuneate, elliptic, acute leaf per pseudobulb, 37 x 15 mm, and the acuminate sepals are 12 mm long.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: In honor of Father Angelo M. Andretta, Salesian priest, born in Italy, lives in Paute, near Cuenca, Ecuador, where he has directed a school of agriculture. A long time orchid enthusiast, he convinced the Portilla brothers about the possibility of establishing an orchid nursery for the propagation of the rich Ecuadorean orchid flora for commercial purposes, thus giving rise to ECUAGENERA. He has been a long time friend of both authors, and provided the type material.

REFERENCES: *Bennett*, D. E. & E. A. Christenson, 1998. *Epidendrum sophronitis* Linden & Rchb. f., *Icones Orch. Peruv.*: pl. 472.



Authors: E. Hágsater & C. H. Dodson

Illustrator: R. Jiménez M.

Editors: E. Hágsater & L. Sánchez S.

Herbario AMO Apartado Postal 53-123, 11320 México, D.F., MÉXICO

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