

***Epidendrum aristatum* Ackerman & Montalvo,**  
sp. nov.

FIGURE 1.

Inter species *Epidendri* L. species haec rhachidi inflorescentiae geniculatis, bracteis floralibus sepalisque carinatus aristisque, et clinandrio prolongato acrenulatoque distinguitur.

TYPE. Ecuador, Pichincha, epiphytic in cloud forest west of Mindo toward Puerto Quito, 1,600 m, 13 Mar 1982, *Luer, Hirtz & Dalstrom* 7329 (SEL, holotype).

Plant epiphytic, cane-like to more than 50 cm tall. Stems slender, terete, simple (in ours). Leaves numerous, distichous; lamina elliptic to elliptic oblanceolate, acuminate to obtuse with a point, articulate, deciduous, 7–17 cm long, 1.5–4.5 cm wide; sheaths tubular, persistent but gradually disintegrating on older stem portions, overlapping, 1.5–3 cm long. Inflorescences terminal and lateral; the terminal erect peduncle to 11 cm long, concealed by narrow sheaths, 1–several racemes, rachis 3–5 cm long, geniculate, partially concealed by short, conduplicate keeled, and awned floral bracts, 7–12 mm long, 4 mm wide folded, the upper third of keel minutely toothed; lateral inflorescences similar to terminal ones, peduncle 2–3 cm long, emerging through leaf sheath, rachis 1.5–6 cm long, erect or laxly spreading, few flowers produced at a time. Flowers creamy-green, glabrous; pedicellate ovary 12–13 mm long, slightly bulbous to apex; dorsal sepal suberect, arches over column, narrowly lanceolate, keeled, awned, 14 mm long, 4 mm wide; lateral sepals subspreading, lanceolate, keeled, awned, 16 mm long, 4 mm wide, awn 2 mm long; lateral petals

Geniculate inflorescences, keeled and awned floral bracts and sepals, simple labellum with 2 long arching basal callosities, short straight column with an elongate clinandrium, and lateral and terminal inflorescences distinguish this species from others.

*Epidendrum aristatum* is vegetatively very similar to *Epidendrum tropidioides* Garay, a species from Colombia with terminal inflorescences. The column structure of the two is also similar, but the latter has a serrate clinandrium. The perianth parts are also quite different. *Epidendrum tropidioides* lacks the keeled sepals and has broader petals. The lip is cuneate-obovate and the callosities are different. *Epidendrum tropidioides* is illustrated in Garay (1978, pl. 6).

The inflorescence structure of *E. aristatum* is similar to that of *E. dunstervilleorum* Foldats. Both have a geniculate inflorescence rachis and glume-like floral bracts (see Foldats, 1970: figure 465). However, the flowers and narrow leaves of *E. dunstervilleorum* are quite unlike those of *E. aristatum*.

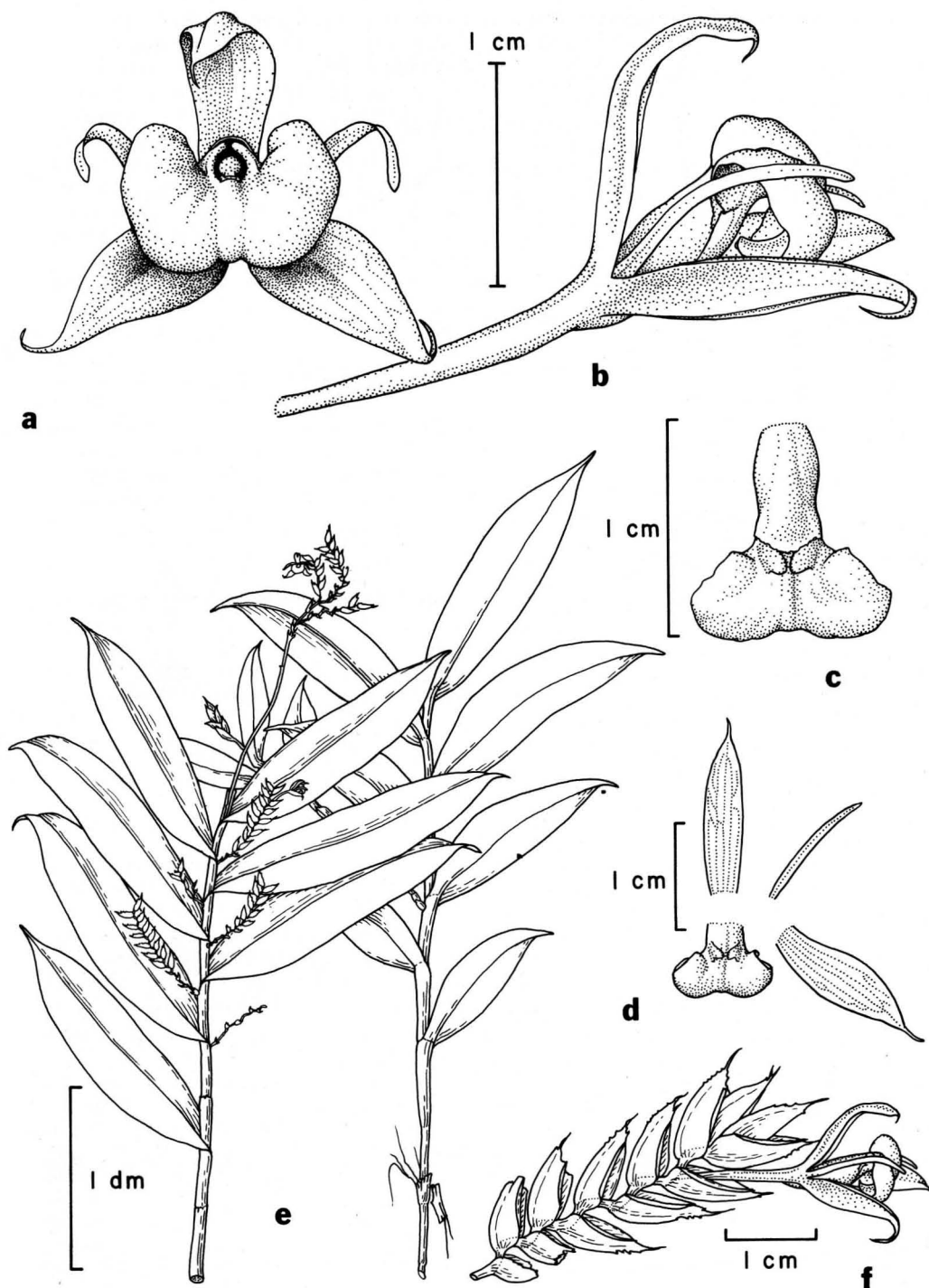


FIGURE 1. *Epidendrum aristatum*. a, flower, front view. b, flower, side view. c, lip and column, dorsal view. d, perianth parts, lip not spread out. e, plant habit. f, inflorescence. (Based on Luer *et al.* 7329 and Dodson *et al.* 7788.)