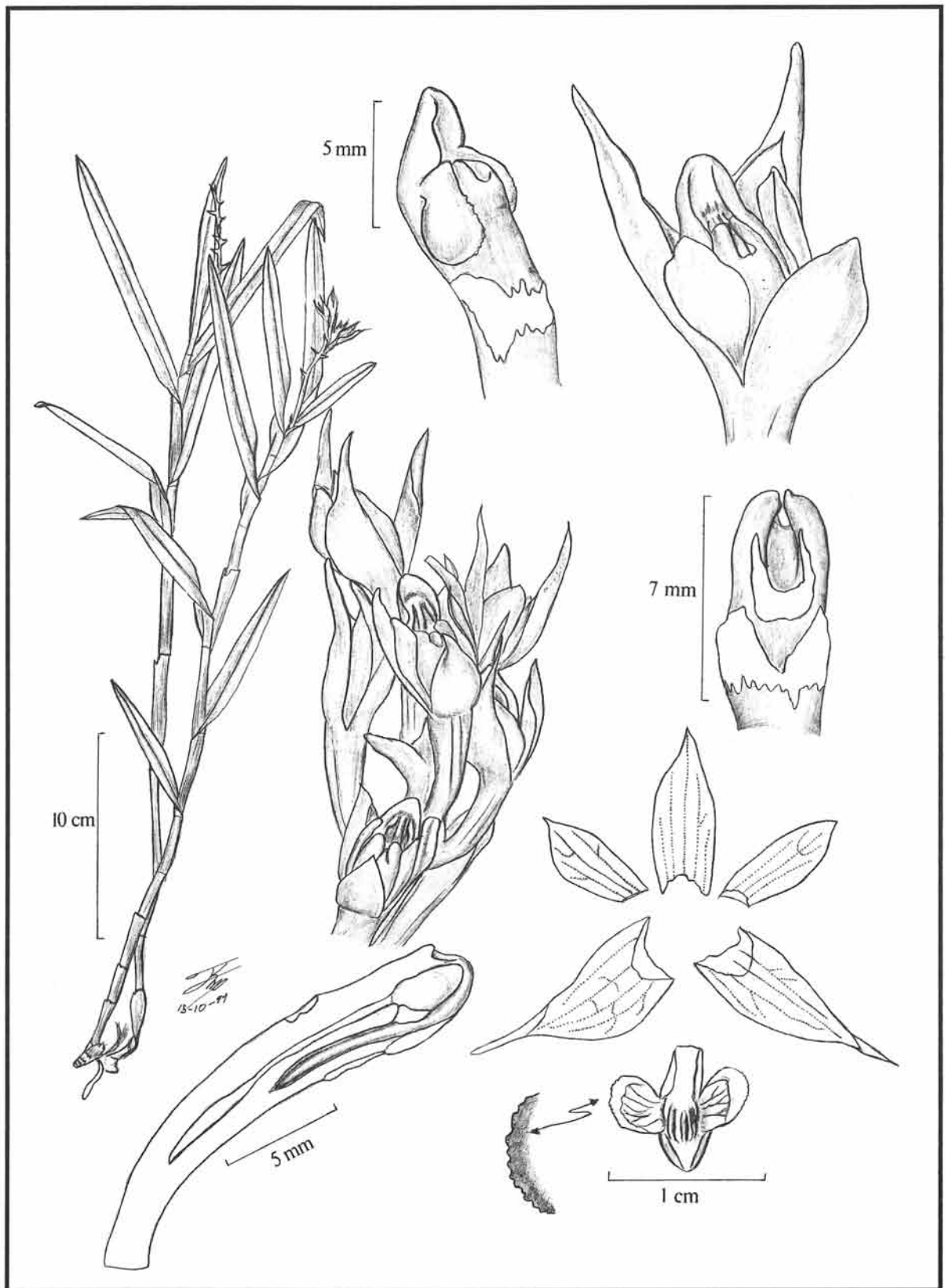




EPIDENDRUM ARISTISEPALUM Hágsater & Dodson
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 3

EPIDENDRUM ARISTISEPALUM Hágsater et Dodson, *sp. nov.*

Type: ECUADOR: Loja: new road from Jimbura to Zumba, south of pass, 3000 m, 21 Feb. 1986, A.

Embree 51. Holotype: RPSC! (illustration voucher, in part, plant and sections of flower).

Epidendro birostrato C. Schweinf. simile sed foliis angustioribus, petalis acutis, labelli lobulo medio semiorbiculari et rotundato ecalloso, disco obtuse tricarinato differt.

Hierba epífita, cespitosa, 37-50 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, gruesas, de 1.7-2 mm de grosor. **Tallos** tipo caña, sencillos, rectos, teretes en la base, progresivamente comprimidos hacia el ápice, 32-37 x 0.4-0.6 cm. **Hojas** 7-8, distribuidas en los 2/3 apicales del tallo; vainas comprimidas, estriadas cuando secas, las dos inferiores no foliosas, de 2-5.5 cm de largo; lámina angostamente oblonda a lanceolada, aguda, diminutamente apiculada, con una quilla dorsal prominente, desiguales, las centrales más largas, borde revuelto, diminutamente crenado, subcoriácea, 6-14.5 x 0.7-1.1 cm. **Espata** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, del crecimiento maduro, racemosa, raquis 3.5-6 x 0.15-0.2 cm, pedúnculo de 3-4 cm de largo, sin brácteas o provisto de una sola bráctea triangular, acuminada, de 6 x 2 mm. **Brácteas** florales triangulares, acuminadas, más cortas que el ovario, 4-5.5 x 2-4 mm. **Ovario** terete, algo más grueso abajo del perianto, 12-13 x 2 mm. **Flores** 9-10, resupinadas, simultaneas, carnosas, verde crema a pardo anaranjadas, disco del labelo crema, columna crema; fragancia no registrada. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, cóncavos, desiguales; el dorsal oblongo, agudo, 5-nervado, 8-10 x 4 mm; los laterales ovado acuminados, aristados, con una quilla dorsal prominente, 4-nervados, las intermedias ramificadas, 11-16 x 4.5-5.1 mm. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, elípticos, agudos, oblicuos, 3-nervados, con varias ramificaciones pequeñas, 7.7-8.5 x 3.1-3.4 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, profundamente cordado, lóbulos laterales suborbiculares, con el margen eroso, 3.4 x 3.5 mm, lóbulo medio suborbicular, redondeado, con los márgenes formando media caña, 2.5 x 2.8 mm, ecalloso, con tres quillas longitudinales. **Columna** corta, gruesa, de 6.8 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales** del estigma de 1/3 de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** penetrando 1/5 del perianto, no ornamentado. **Antera** no vista. **Polinios** no vistos. **Cápsula** elipsoide, 27 x 13-15 mm, incluyendo un pedicelo de 3-4 mm de largo, cuello apical reducido.

Epiphytic, caespitose herb. Roots basal, thick. Stems cane-like, simple, terete below, laterally compressed above. Leaves narrowly oblong to lanceolate, acute, minutely apiculate, unequal, the central ones longer, margins revolute, subcoriaceous. Spathe absent. Inflorescence apical, racemose. Floral bracts triangular, acuminate, much shorter than the ovary. Ovary terete. Flowers resupinate, simultaneous, fleshy, cream-green to brownish-orange, the column and disc of the lip cream. Sepals partly spreading, concave, unequal, the dorsal oblong, acute, 5-veined; the laterals ovate, acuminate, aristate, 4-veined. Petals partly spreading, elliptic, acute, 3-veined, branching. Lip united to the column, 3-lobed, deeply cordate, lateral lobes suborbicular, margin finely erose; midlobe semiorbicular, rounded, in natural position the sides upturned, ecallose, the disc with 3 keels. Column short and thick. Clinandrium reduced, entire. Nectary penetrating one fifth of the ovary.

OTHER SPECIMENS: ECUADOR: Azuay: Páramo del Castillo, Camp E-4804, AMES! NY!

OTHER RECORDS: ECUADOR: Loja: new road from Jimbura to Zumba, south of pass, 3000 m, 21 Feb. 1986, Hirtz 2860, two color slides, AMO! (illustration vouchers, in part). [Close up of inflorescence and a flower taken from same plant as the type.]

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from southern Ecuador, in cloud forest, 3000 m altitude. Sympatric with *E. aristoloides* Hágsater & Dodson. Flowering in February.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum aristisepalum* belongs to the coronatum group, aristisepalum subgroup, which has a caespitose habit, simple stems, narrow, subcoriaceous leaves, a racemose inflorescence without spathes, and the sepals prominently aristate. *Epidendrum aristisepalum* has a 3-lobed, ecallose, 3-keeled lip, with the apical lobe semiorbicular and rounded, the leaves

narrower. *Epidendrum birostratum* has leaves up to 15 mm wide, obtuse petals, lip with a prominent 2-lobed callus and the midlobe tridentate at the apex. *Epidendrum aristoloides* has narrower leaves and shorter sepals, petals rounded and the lip 4-lobed and bicallose.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *aristatus* awned, and *sepalum*, sepal; in reference to the awned sepals which are characteristic of this species and its close allies.

