

EPIDENDRUM ASTROSELAGINELLA Hągsater & E.Santiago

EPIDENDRUM ASTROSELAGINELLA Hágsater et E.Santiago, sp. nov.

Type: COSTA RICA: Limón: remontando la cuenca del Río Urén, saliendo de la casa de Calixto Kiamble, hasta la finca de Valerio Morales, 1030 m, 25 Octubre 1985, **Luis D. Gómez, Gerardo Herrera, D. Masterson 23814**.
Holotype: MO! (Illustration voucher.) Isotype: CR!

Epidendro selaginella Schltr. simile sed foliis lineari-lanceolatis, segmentis floralibus patentibus, floribus laxe in inflorescentiam distributis, ovario sepalisque glabris, columna duos dentes laterales erectos ad angulum 45° a fronte antherarum ferenti.

Hierba epífita, simpodial, cespitosa, 6.5-14 cm de alto. **Raíces** originándose en la base de cada tallo, muy delgadas, carnosas, blancas, 0.1-0.3 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, producidos del 2-3 entrenudo del tallo anterior, tipo caña, teretes en la base, lateralmente aplanados arriba, delgados, erectos, rectos, 4-12.5 x 0.03-0.08 cm. **Hojas** 9-15, distribuidas a todo lo largo del tallo, disticas, alternas, articuladas, equidistantes, horizontales; vainas tubulares, algo infladas en el ápice, sin llegar a ser infundibuliformes, algo lateralmente aplanadas, finamente estriadas, 1.5-3.5 x 0.4-1 mm; con una ligula muy evidente del lado opuesto de la lámina, triangular, subaguda, conduplicada, 0.6-0.7 mm de largo; lámina linear lanceolada, obtusa, desigualmente bilobada, con una quilla dorsal baja, coriácea, amplexicaule, margen entero, extendido a ligeramente revoluto, 3.6-10.5 x 0.6-1.9 mm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, florece una sola vez, racemosa, distica, secundiflora, erecta, 1.5-6 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, filiforme, recto, 10-32 mm de largo; ocasionalmente provisto de 1 a 2 brácteas, tubulares en la base, agudas en el ápice, 3-4 mm de largo; raquis recto, con las flores laxamente distribuidas. **Brácteas florales** más cortas a ligeramente más largas que el ovario, angostamente ovadas, agudas, conduplicadas, amplexicaules, ligeramente papilosas, 2.6-3.2 mm de largo. **Ovario** corto, terete, delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado, 2.6-3 mm de largo. **Flores** 2-7, simultáneas, no resupinadas, disticas, verde pálido o amarillo verdoso, antera blanca; sin datos de fragancia. **Sépalos** extendidos, libres, angostamente triangulares, agudos, con una quilla dorsal baja, glabros, 3-nervados, margen extendido, entero, 3.5-4.2 x 1-1.2 mm; los **laterales** oblicuos. **Pétalos** extendidos, libres, lineares, agudos, glabros, 1-nervados, margen extendido, entero, 3.3-3.6 x 0.2-0.3 mm. **Labelo** unido a la mitad basal de la columna, entero, triangular, cordado, ligeramente más largo que ancho, algo cóncavo en la base, agudo y carnososo en el ápice, abrazando a la columna en posición natural sin envolverla por completo, 3 x 2.5 mm; ecaloso, con una quilla carnosa muy baja en el ápice. **Columna** corta, recta, gruesa, el ápice con un par de dientes laterales prominentes y planos, dirigidos hacia arriba a un ángulo de 45°, frente a la antera, 1.5 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, margen entero. **Antera** reniforme, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, caudículas granulosas, del doble del largo de los polinios. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** obsoletos. **Nectario** penetrando ¼ del ovario, agudo en la base y gradualmente más amplio hacia el ápice, no inflado, no ornamentado. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, sympodial, caespitose herb. **Roots** originating from the base of the stems, very thin, fleshy, white. **Stems** simple, produced from the 2-3rd internode of the previous stem, cane-like, terete at the base, laterally compressed above, thin, erect, straight. **Leaves** 9-15, evenly distributed throughout the stem, distichous, alternate, articulate, spreading horizontally; sheaths tubular, somewhat inflated towards the apex, without being infundibuliform, somewhat laterally flattened, minutely striated, with an evident ligule opposite the blade, triangular, subacute, conduplicate; blade linear-lanceolate, obtuse, unequally bilobed, with a low dorsal keel, coriaceous, amplexicaul, margin entire, spreading to slightly revolute. **Inflorescence** apical, flowering only once, racemose, distichous, secund, erect; peduncle short, filiform, straight, occasionally provided with 1-2, tubular, acute bracts; rachis straight, with lax distributed flowers. **Floral bracts** shorter to slightly shorter than the ovary, narrowly ovate, acute, conduplicate, amplexicaule, slightly papillose. **Ovary** short, terete, thin, not inflated, smooth. **Flowers** 2-7, simultaneous, non-resupinate, distichous, pale green or greenish yellow, anther white. **Sepals** spreading, free, narrowly triangular, acute, with a low dorsal keel, glabrous, 3-veined, margin spreading, entire, the lateral sepals oblique. **Petals** spreading, free, linear, acute, glabrous, 1-veined, margin spreading, entire. **Lip** united to the basal half of the column, entire, triangular, base cordate, slightly longer than wide, somewhat concave at the base, acute and fleshy at the apex, embracing the column in natural position without covering it completely; ecallose, with a low, fleshy keel at the apex. **Column** short, straight, thick, the apex with a pair of prominent lateral, flat teeth directed upwards at a 45° angle in front of the anther. **Clinandrium-hood** short, margin entire. **Anther** reniform, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, caudicles granulose, twice as long as the pollinia. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating 1/4th of the ovary, acute at the base, gradually wider towards the apex, not inflated, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: See appendix.

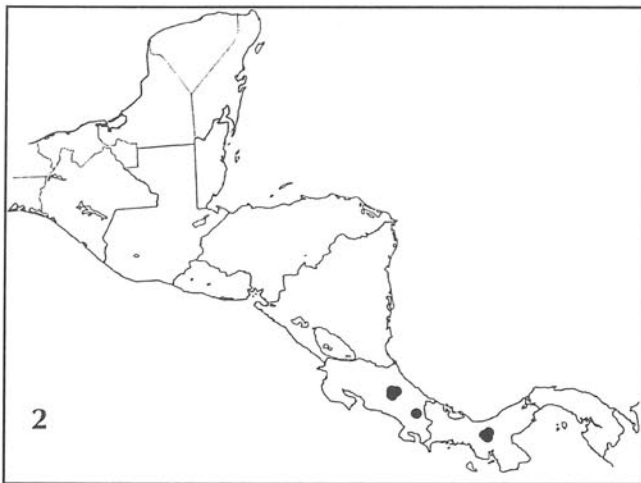
DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Ranging along the Atlantic slope of the northern Cordillera de Talamanca from central Costa Rica and on the Serranía de Tabasará in Veraguas in central Panama, at 500-1000 m altitude, epiphytic. Flowering from August to November.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum astroselaginella* belongs to the Epidanthus Group which is characterized by short, small, somewhat scandent plants with very thin stems, very narrow, more or less fleshy leaves, with a small, narrowly triangular,

acute ligule opposite the blade, an apical, distichous, usually secund inflorescence, and 2 or 4 pollinia. The species is recognized by the linear-lanceolate leaves, flowers laxly distributed on the inflorescence, the floral segments spreading, star-shaped, very thin petals, the nectary gradually widening towards the apex, not constricted at the perianth, the ovary and sepals glabrous, and the pair of prominent lateral, flat, teeth of the column directed upwards at a 45° angle in front of the anther. *Epidendrum selaginella* has ovate to oblong-ovate leaves, the flowers aggregate at the end of a long inflorescence, the floral segments partly spreading, the sepals and ovary densely papillose, and the nectary constricted at the perianth. *Epidendrum stenoselaginella* Hágsater & E.Santiago is vegetatively very similar, with narrow leaves, but has smaller flowers (sepals 2.3-3.0 mm long), the floral segments partly spreading, and the lip as wide as it is long, and the blunt, toothless column totally united to the lip.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek, αστρον, star, and selaginella, in reference to the open spreading, star-shaped tepals which distinguish this species from the true *E. selaginella*, and the sister species, *E. stenoselaginella*.



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