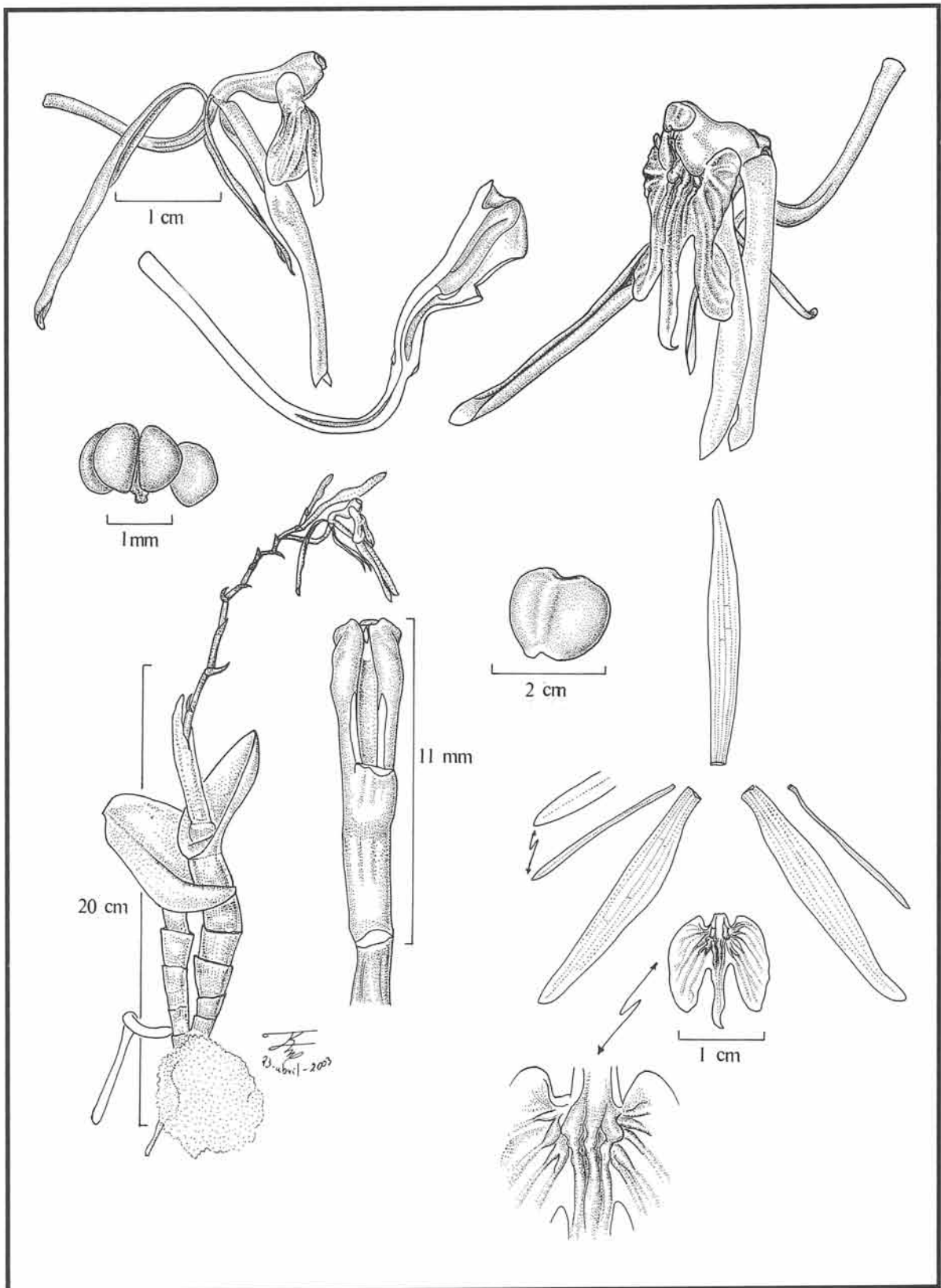




EPIDENDRUM ATONUM Hágsater & Dodson
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

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

Type: ECUADOR: Morona-Santiago: Gualaquiza, Chiguinda, vía Bermejos, epífita, 1500-1800 m, Hort. Ecuagenera, collected and grown by Hugo Medina Troyani, pressed 8 March 2003, *E. Hágsater 13831*.
Holotype: The illustration, QCNE! Isotype: flower in liquid, AMO! (Illustration voucher). Copies of illustration at: AAU! AMES! AMO! GB! K! LOJA! MO! SEL! QCA! S! USM!

Epidendro dalstromii Dodson simile sed habitu minore, caulibus ancipitiis, inflorescentia racemosa flexuosa, floribus successivis, sepalis petalisque descendentibus, labello profunde trilobato ad discum carinas radiantes prominentes ferenti differt.

Hierba epífita, cespitosa, erecta, 26 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, carnosas, gruesas, blanco verdosas, 4 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, ancipitosos, anchos, sinuosos, 10-11.2 x 0.8-1.5 cm. **Hojas** 2-4, distribuidas hacia la mitad apical del tallo, alternas, suberectas, coriáceas, lisas; vaina tubular, ancipitosa, 11-15 x 8-15 mm; lámina ovado elíptica, redondeada, con una quilla dorsal baja, margen entero, amplexicaule, cóncava en posición natural, 6.2-6.7 x 3.5-5.0 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** 1, tubular, ancipitosa, aguda, papirácea, 5.6 x 0.8 cm. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, pauciflora, ligeramente arqueada, 14.5 cm de largo; pedúnculo alargado, terete, delgado, cubierto casi en su totalidad por la bráctea espatácea, 4.5 cm de largo; raquis terete, delgado, flexuoso en la mitad basal, en zigzag hacia la mitad apical, 10 cm de largo. **Brácteas florales** mucho más cortas que el ovario, angostamente triangulares, acuminadas, gradualmente más pequeñas hacia el ápice, 3-11 mm de largo. **Flores** 10, sucesivas, una abierta a la vez, con un par de botones en diversos estados de desarrollo, resupinadas, de color blanco verdoso, sin fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, no inflado, liso; en los botones florales recto; en la flor abierta recto en los 2/3 basales, fuertemente arqueado hacia arriba en el 1/3 apical, 17-22 mm de largo. **Sépalos** libres, linear elípticos, agudos, 5-nervados, lisos, margen entero, 30 x 5 mm; el dorsal reflexo descendente; los laterales descendentes, ligeramente oblicuos. **Pétalos** libres, descendentes, lineares, agudos, 1-nervados, lisos, margen entero, 22 x 0.6 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna de manera oblicua, trilobado, base cordada, margen entero, 12 x 11.7 mm; bicalloso, los callos pequeños; disco provisto de 9 quillas prominentes, radiales, las tres centrales levemente nodulosas, alargadas hasta la base del lóbulo medio, las laterales de cerca de la mitad del largo que las centrales, algunas bifurcadas en el ápice; lóbulos laterales angostamente ovados, 5 x 11 mm; lóbulo medio acicular, ondulado, 7 x 1 mm. **Columna** constreñida en el 1/3 basal, obcónica en los 2/3 apicales, subsigmoide, con un par de alas apicales ventrales, no involutas, 11 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, margen entero. **Antera** reniforme, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** pequeños, 1/5 del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** corto, sin traspasar el perianto, delgado, no inflado, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, caespitose, erect **herb.** **Roots** basal, fleshy, thick, somewhat greenish. **Stem** simple, cane-like, ancipitose, wide, sinuous. **Leaves** 2-4, distributed along the upper half of the stem, alternate, coriaceous, smooth; sheath tubular, ancipitose; blade ovate-elliptic, rounded, with a low dorsal keel, margin entire, amplexicaul, concave in natural position. **Spathaceous bract** 1, tubular, ancipitose, apex acute, papyraceous. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, few-flowered, somewhat arching; peduncle longer than the leaves, terete, thin, nearly totally covered by the spathaceous bract; rachis terete, thin, flexuous below, zigzag above. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, narrowly triangular, acuminate, gradually smaller. **Flowers** 10, successive, one open at a time, with a couple of buds in different stages of development, resupinate, greenish white, without fragrance. **Ovary** terete, thin, not inflated, smooth, in floral buds straight, in open flower the apex arched upwards. **Sepals** free, linear-elliptic, acute, 5-veined, smooth, margin entire; the dorsal sepal reflexed-pendulous, the laterals pendulous, slightly oblique. **Petals** free, pendulous, linear, acute, 1-veined, smooth, margin entire. **Lip** united obliquely to the column, 3-lobed, base cordate, margin entire; bicallose, the calli small, disc provided with 9 prominent keels, radiating, the three central keels somewhat nodulose, elongating to the base of the midlobe, the laterals about half as long, some split at the apex; lateral lobes narrowly ovate; midlobe sword-like, undulate. **Column** constricted towards the base, somewhat sigmoid, with a pair of non-involute, ventral wings. **Clinandrium** hood short, margin entire. **Anther** reniform, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, subequal. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Lateral lobes of the stigma** small, about 1/5th the length of the cavity. **Nectary** short, without penetrating the ovary, narrow, not inflated, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the type. From the eastern slopes of the Andes in south central Ecuador, at about 1500-1800 m altitude. Flowering in March, probably over the second half of the year.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum atonum* belongs to the Excisum Group, Longiflorum Subgroup, characterized by the caespitose habit, erect stems with several fleshy leaves, a spathaceous bract, and the inflorescence with numerous star-like flowers, with narrow sepals and petals, and a prominent lip. The new species can be recognized by the short, ancipitose stems with roundish, amplexicaul, coriaceous leaves, the zigzag rachis with a single, successive flower, the pendulous sepals and petals and the deeply 3-lobed lip, with radiating, thickened keels. It is somewhat similar to *Epidendrum dalstromii* which has tall, terete, cane-like stems, with a pair of elliptic-orbicular, coriaceous

leaves, an erect, lax-flowered, racemose to paniculate inflorescence with large, simultaneous flowers, the petals much reduced, hair-like, and a suborbicular lip at the end of an upright, sigmoid column; the lonely spathaceous bract is small. It may also be close to *Epidendrum nigricans* Schltr. which has short, thickened stems with two oval, fleshy leaves, an erect, racemose to paniculate inflorescence subtended by a spathaceous bract, with successive flowers of somewhat similar characteristics.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek αττονος - languid, weak, in reference to the hanging position of the sepals and petals which give the flower a languid appearance.

