



EPIDENDRUM ATYPICUM Hágsater & E.Santiago
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 5

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

Type: COSTA RICA: San José: Pan-American Highway, Cordillera de Talamanca, ca. 2400 m, on cliff, flowers purple, lower montane wet zone, 25 August 1961, *Claude Weber 6081*. Holotype: AMES 88967! (Illustration voucher).
Isotype: AMES 88923!

Epidendro crescentilobo Ames simile sed floribus majoribus, labelli lobulo medio simplici subulato acuto, ovario triquetro, polliniorum pari interiore in pollinarii parte supera, e latere crassiore polliniorum exteriorum sito, recedit.

Hierba litófito, simpodial, cespitosa, en ocasiones ramificada arriba; 16-48 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, carnosas; 1.4-2.3 mm de grosor. **Tallos** tipo caña, teretes, el basal ramificado hacia el ápice cuando maduro (después de florecer); 16-48 x 0.25-0.48 cm; las ramas 7-8 x 0.14-0.22 cm. **Hojas** 11-16 en el tallo basal, 6-7 en las ramas, distribuidas a lo largo de la mitad apical del tallo, alternas, semejantes entre sí; vaina tubular, verrugosa, 5-34 x 1.4-4.8 mm; lámina lanceolada, ápice agudo, lisa, con una quilla dorsal, margen entero; las del tallo principal 3-5.8 x 0.6-1.0 cm; las de las ramificaciones 1.4-2.8 x 0.5-0.7 cm. **Bráctea espátacea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, erecta; 4.5-7 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, terete; 15-18 mm de largo; provisto de 1-2 brácteas semejantes a las florales, triangulares, largamente acuminadas; 5-7 mm de largo. **Brácteas florales** mucho más cortas que el ovario, abrazadoras, triangulares, acuminadas; 2-4 mm de largo. **Flores** 10-19, simultáneas, resupinadas, color púrpura; sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** triquetro, no inflado, liso; 12-15 mm de largo. **Sépalos** extendidos, libres, oblanceolados, redondeados a agudos, 3-nervados, las nervaduras laterales ramificadas desde la base dando la apariencia de ser 5-nervados, margen entero; 9.5-10.5 x 2.5 mm. **Pétalos** extendidos, libres, angostamente oblanceolado espatulados, ápice subagudo, 3-nervados, margen entero; 8.5 x 1.8 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, diminutamente papiloso, cuneado en la base; 6.1 x 5.3 mm; callo tridentado, formando un cojín algo depresado al centro; lóbulos laterales cuneados, truncados, la esquina posterior redondeada, la anterior aguda, margen apical sinuado; 2.2 x 1.8 mm; lóbulos medio subulado, agudo, muy caroso; 4.4 x 1.2 mm. **Columna** recta, delgada, 6 mm de largo incluyendo el clinandrio. **Clinandrio** prominente, dos veces más largo que el cuerpo de la columna, el margen apical eroso. **Antera** obovoide, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, tipo ala de pájaro, desiguales, el par interior de la mitad del largo de los exteriores y ubicados en la parte alta del polinario, del lado más grueso de los polinios exteriores; caudícula laminar; sin viscidio. **Rostelo** perpendicular al eje de la columna, formando un seno amplio. **Nectario** penetrando una cuarta parte del ovario, no inflado, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Lithophytic, sympodial, caespitose herb, occasionally branching above. **Roots** basal, fleshy. **Stems** cane-like, terete, mature (after flowering) stems branching above, branches short. **Leaves** distributed along the upper half of the stems, sheaths verrucose, blade lanceolate, acute, margin entire, those of the branches smaller. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, erect, peduncle short, terete, provided with 1-2 bracts. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, triangular, acuminate. **Flowers** 10-19, simultaneous, resupinate, purple. **Ovary** triquetrus. **Sepals** spreading, free, oblanceolate, rounded to acute, 3-veined, the lateral veins branching from the base so as to appear 5-veined, margin entire. **Petals** spreading, free, narrowly oblanceolate-spatulate, subacute, 3-veined, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, minutely papillate, callus tridentate, forming an elongate cushion, somewhat depressed in the center; lateral lobes cuneate, truncate, posterior corner rounded, front corner acute, midlobe subulate, fleshy, acute. **Column** long, straight, thin. **Clinandrium-hood** prominent, twice as long as the body of the column, margin erose. **Anther** obovoid, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, bird-wing type, very flat and translucent, unequal, the inner pair half as long as the outer pair, placed on the upper side of the pollinarium, where the outer pollinia are thicker; viscidium lacking. **Rostellum** perpendicular to the axis of the column, forming a wide sinus. **Nectary** penetrating one fourth of the ovary.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the type locality near the summit of the Cordillera de Talamanca in central Costa Rica, in wet lower montane forest, on a cliff, at 2400 m altitude. Flowering in August.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum atypicum* belongs to the Oerstedella Group which is characterized by the sympodial habit, mostly verrucose stems, and the rostellum which is transverse to the column instead of parallel, forming a wide, open sinus, and Aberrans Subgroup which has small, membranaceous flowers with a prominent clinandrium-hood, with unequal, bird-wing type pollinia, the inner pair much smaller than the outer pair, and the pollinia very flat and translucent. The species is recognized by the simple midlobe of the lip, and very prominent clinandrium-hood nearly twice as long as the body of the column, the inner pollinia are placed next to the thicker side of the outer pollinia. It is closely related to *E. crescentilobum* Ames which has somewhat smaller flowers and a 4-lobed lip. *Epidendrum aberrans* Schltr. has a 4-lobed lip, the lobes are inserted at 45° and narrow. *Epidendrum pachyepalum* Hágsater & E.Santiago has somewhat larger flowers, sepals 12-14 mm long, fleshy thickened towards the apex, a two-lobed midlobe, and the inner pair of pollinia nearly ¾ the length of the outer pair, and placed in the middle of the pollinarium. Other species with a three lobed lip and an entire midlobe have shorter clinandria and the pollinia are subequal, obovoid, with long, granulate caudicles and include *Epidendrum fuscinum* (Dressler) Hágsater which has 13-15 mm long sepals, the lateral lobes of the lip 7-10 mm long, and about 2-3 times longer than wide. *Epidendrum intermixtum* Ames, F.T.Hubb. & C.Schweinf. is endemic to central and western Costa Rica, and is recognized by the small pale green and white flowers, sepals 6.0-8.5 mm long, the lip about 3-4.2 mm long, with the lateral lobes oblique, so as to look like a trident, with the three lobes aligned at the apex and all equally wide.



CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient. Only known from the type.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek, α , without, and $\tau\upsilon\pi\omicron\varsigma$, impression, thus, not the usual appearance of this group of species, referring to the simple midlobe of the lip which does not have the spreading apical lobes of *Epidendrum crescentilobum* or *E. aberrans*.