



EPIDENDRUM BIANTHOGASTRIUM Hágsater & Dodson
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 3

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

Type: ECUADOR: Pichincha: Entre Nono y Tandayapa, Río Alambí, 2200 m, litófito, col. 5 dic. 1986, prensado 9 feb. 1993, **E. Hágsater, C.H. Dodson & A. Hirtz 8874**. Holotype: QCNE! Isotypes: AMO! RPSC! SEL! Clonotypes: 22 junio 1990, AMES! COL! (the illustration is apparently based on this collection, the number on the plant was misplaced, flowers preserved in liquid, 14 oct. 1993, no full specimen prepared).

Epidendro polyanthogastrio Hágsater & Dodson affine sed caulibus nec incrassatis nec carnosus, floribus parvis semper binis in quoque caule differens.

Hierba epífita, reptante, de 13-25 cm de alto. Raíces basales, delgadas, carnosas, blancas, de ca 1 mm de grosor. Tallos delgados, tipo caña, teretes, rectos, delgados, formados de 6-7 entrenudos, originándose del 4° o 5° nudo del tallo anterior, 4-6 x 0.1-0.2 cm, la mitad basal parcialmente cubierta por vainas no foliosas, con el tiempo se deshacen, dejando el tallo desnudo. Hojas 3-5, desiguales, distribuidas hacia la mitad apical del tallo; vainas foliares articuladas, lisas cuando frescas, estriadas y pardas cuando secas, 6-12 mm de largo; lámina ovada, aguda, 1.1-3.2 x 0.5-0.9 cm. Espatas 1-2, desiguales, conduplicadas, angostamente semiovdadas, agudas; 1.2-1.7 x 0.15-0.4 cm. Inflorescencia apical, erecta, del crecimiento maduro, florece una sola vez, corta; pedúnculo ligeramente más largo que la espata, 10-30 mm de largo, raquis 3-5 mm de largo, racemosa. Brácteas florales más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, acuminadas, 3-8 mm de largo. Ovario inflado ventralmente en la mitad apical, terete, no ornamentado, 14-15 mm de largo. Flores 2, no resupinadas, simultáneas, verde con tintes cobrizos. Sépalo dorsal extendido, angostamente elíptico, agudo, margen extendido, 5-nervado, 8.5-9.5 x 2.5 mm. Sépalos laterales entreabiertos, angostamente ovados, oblicuos, agudos, margen extendido, 5-nervados, 8.0-9.0 x 2.5-3.2 mm. Pétalos extendidos, linear a linear-elípticos, agudos, margen extendido, 3-nervados, 8.0 x 1.5 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, entero, triangular, cordado, agudo, 5.5-6.0 x 5.0-5.5 mm; disco excavado, ornamentado con papilas diminutas, callo bilamelado, láminas triangulares, redondeadas, dobladas hacia los lados, con una quilla central; base del labelo abrazando la columna sin ocultarla. Columna corta, gruesa, 3 mm de largo. Clinandrio sin sobrepasar el cuerpo de la columna, entero. Antera reniforme, 4-locular. Polinios 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales; caudículas suaves y granuladas, ligeramente más largas que los polinios; viscidio semilíquido, transparente. Rostelo apical, hendido. Lóbulos laterales del estigma prominentes, de 2/3 partes del largo de éste. Nectario penetrando 1/3 del pedicelo, ensanchado ligeramente dentro del ovario sin formar vesícula, no ornamentado. Cápsula no vista.

Repent herb. Roots basal, thin. Stems terete, thin, fleshy, the new stem arising from the middle of the previous stem. Leaves 3-5, unequal, distributed throughout the apical half of the stem; sheaths tubular, smooth; blades articulate, ovate, apex acute. Spathes 1-2, unequal conduplicate, narrowly semi-obovate, acute. Inflorescence apical, erect, from mature stem, flowering only once, racemose. Floral bracts shorter than the ovary, triangular, acuminate. Ovary somewhat inflated ventrally at the apical half, unornamented. Flowers 2, non-resupinate, simultaneous, green copper-tinted. Dorsal sepal spreading, narrowly elliptic, acute, margin spreading, 5-veined. Lateral sepals partly spreading, narrowly ovate, oblique, acute, margin spreading, 5-veined. Petals spreading, linear to linear-elliptic, acute, margin spreading, 3-veined. Lip entire, triangular, acute, base cuneate, disc excavate, minutely papillose, callus bilamellate, the apical edge of the rounded keels bent outward, extending into a central keel, sides of the lip upturned in natural position so as to embrace the apex of the column without hiding it. Column short, thick. Clinandrium not surpassing the body of the column, margin entire. Anther reniform, 4-celled. Pollinia 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, subequal; caudicles smooth and granulate, slightly longer than the pollinia; viscidium semi-liquid, transparent. Rostellum apical, slit. Lateral lobes of the stigma more than half its length. Nectary penetrating one third of the pedicel, somewhat widened within, unornamented.

OTHER SPECIMENS: COLOMBIA: Nariño: Escobar 5200, AMO! ECUADOR: Pichincha: Dodson 16351, QCA! QCNE! RPSC! Hirtz 1663, AMO!



DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Ecuador and Colombia, 1700-2400 m altitude, on rocks in road cuts. Flowering January to March. **RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum bianthogastrium* belongs to the megagastrium group which is recognized by its sympodial habit, with new stems arising from a middle internode of the previous stem, the presence of an ovate spathe and the excavated disc of the lip, somewhat similar to many *Malaxis*, with the area covered by papillae. The species is identified by its stems, relatively small flowers (sepals 8-9.5 mm long), always 2 per inflorescence, green with coppery hue, triangular, cordate lip in a non-resupinate, somewhat horizontal position. Similar to *E. polyanthogastrium* which has fleshy, thickened stems and more numerous flowers, up to 8. *Epidendrum amplexigastrium* Hágsater has a trilobed, cuneate, lip, with the lateral lobes semiobovate and directed forwards and embracing the column and overlapping in natural position. *Epidendrum megagastrium* has a triangular, cordate lip but the lateral lobes do not cover the apex of the column, the sepals are 20 mm long. *Epidendrum quisayanum* Schltr. is easily recognized by its bright purple flowers.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin "bi", two, and the Greek "άνθος" flowers, in reference to the usual number of flowers and "γαστέρος", belly or womb, in reference to the group of species with an excavated, papillate, disc of the lip which is quite unusual in the genus *Epidendrum*, but typical of this group.