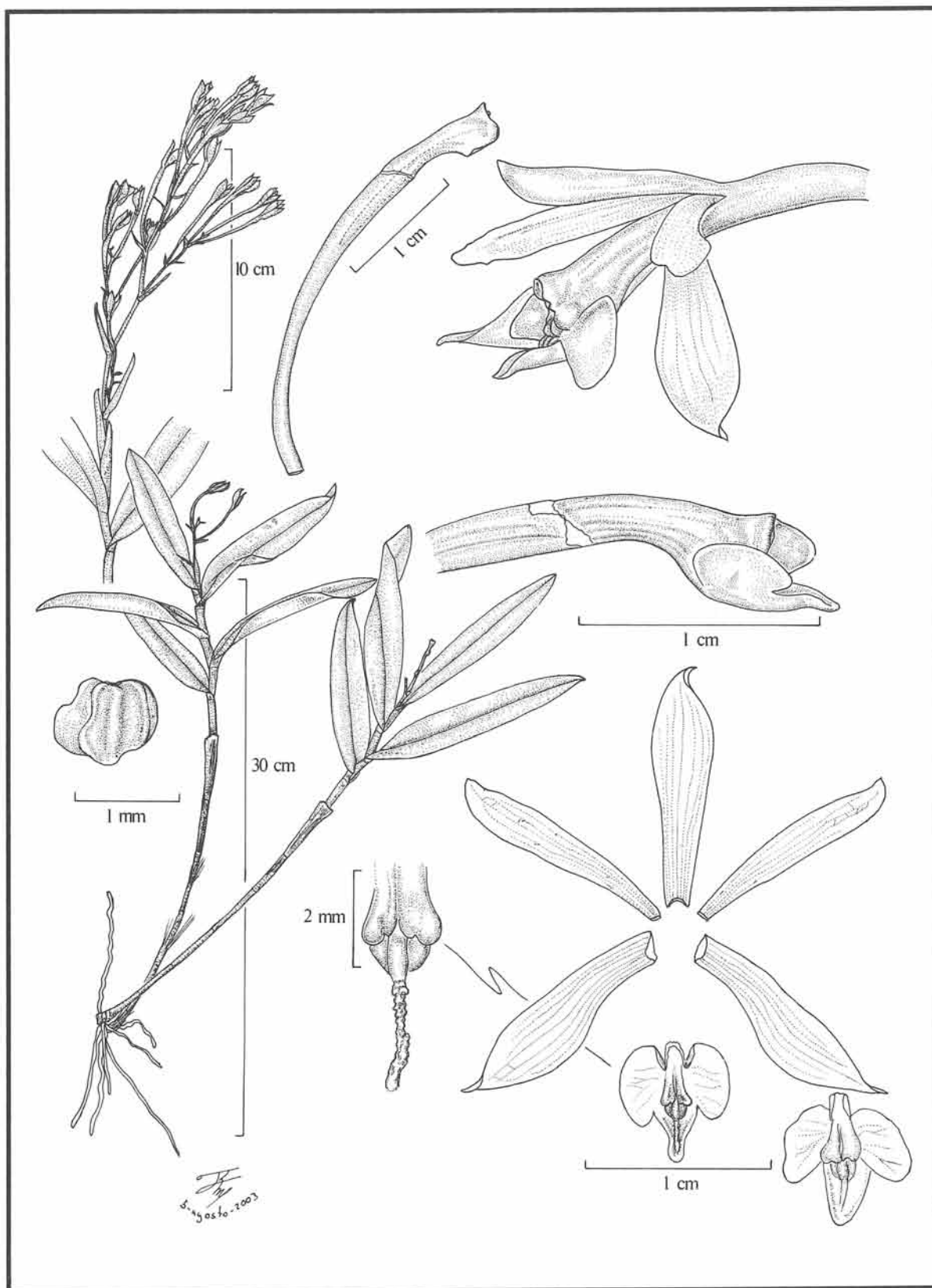




EPIDENDRUM BORICUOMUTELIANUM Hágsater & L. Sánchez
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

EPIDENDRUM BORICUOMUTELIANUM Hágsater & L. Sánchez, *sp. nov.*

Type: Puerto Rico: Caribbean National Forest, along highway 930, 18°17'N, 65°47'W, ca. 800 m, dwarf forest, 5 January 1987, **Brian M. Boom 6936**. Holotype: UPRRP! (Illustration voucher). Isotype: NY!

Epidendrum mutelianum Cogn. simile sed floribus aurantiaco-luteis cleistogamis, labelli lobulo medio triangulari et rotundato discrepat.

Hierba epífita, cespitosa, 20-37 cm de largo. **Raíces** basales, 1-2 mm de grosor. **Tallos** simples, tipo caña, lateralmente comprimidos, 13-23 cm de largo. **Hojas** 3-5, distribuidas hacia la 1/2-1/4 apical del tallo, dísticas; vaina tubular, lateralmente comprimida, finamente estriada, 0.8-3.2 x 0.3-0.6 cm; lámina angostamente elíptica, aguda, algo retusa, 6.5-10 x 1.5-2.2 cm. **Brácteas espatáceas** 1-2, conduplicadas, acuminadas, imbricadas; 1.1-3.5 x 0.3-0.4 cm. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa a paniculada; pedúnculo 2-7 cm de largo, en ocasiones con una bráctea conduplicada hacia la mitad del pedúnculo, semejante a la bráctea espatácea pero menor. **Brácteas florales** linear-lanceoladas, agudas, 4-9 mm de largo. **Flores** 4 a 20, entrecerradas o cleistógamas, amarillo-naranja, la columna rojo pardo; fragancia no registrada. **Ovario** dilatado hacia el ápice, terete, no ornamentado, 2.3-3.4 cm de largo. **Sépalos** oblanceolados, acuminados, carnosos, 7-nervados, 10-12 x 2-4 mm; los **laterales** oblicuos. **Pétalos** angostamente oblanceolados, agudos, 5-nervados, 9-10 x 1.8-2.3 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, margen entero, 5 x 6 mm; bicalloso, los callos laminares; disco con 3 quillas, las laterales cortas, la media prominente, carnosas; lóbulos laterales transversalmente ovado-elípticos, sinuados; lóbulo medio triangular, cortamente acicular, redondeado. **Columna** ligeramente arqueada, ensanchada hacia el ápice, 6-7 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, entero. **Antera** subcuadrada, con una quilla alta, roma, 4-locular. **Polinios** no vistos. **Nectario** penetrando 1/3 del ovario, sin ornamentación. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, caespitose **herb.** **Stems** simple, cane-like, laterally compressed. **Leaves** 3-5, distributed towards the apical 1/2-1/4 of the stems, distichous; sheath tubular, laterally compressed, striate; blade narrowly elliptic, acute, somewhat retuse. **Spathaceous bracts** 1-2, conduplicate, acuminate. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose to paniculate; peduncle sometimes with an intermediate bract similar to the spathaceous bracts but smaller. **Floral bracts** lanceolate, acute. **Flowers** 4 to 20, partly opening to cleistogamous, yellow-orange, the column brown-red. **Sepals** oblanceolate, acuminate, thick, 7-veined; the **laterals** oblique. **Petals** narrowly oblanceolate, acute, 5-veined. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, margin entire; bicallose, the calli laminar; disc with 3, thick, short keels, the median longer; lateral lobes transversely ovate-elliptic, sinuate; midlobe triangular, short-acicular, rounded. **Column** somewhat arcuate, inflated at the apex. **Clinandrium** hood short, entire. **Anther** subquadrate, with a keel, 4-locular. **Nectary** penetrating 1/3 of the ovary, smooth.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Endemic to the Cerro La Santa, Luquillo Mountains in eastern Puerto Rico. Known from montane regions, epiphytic on tree trunks in wet forest, at about 800 m altitude. Flowering from November to January.

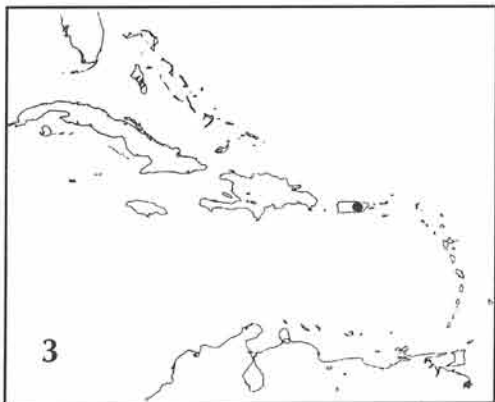
OTHER SPECIMENS: PUERTO RICO: Caguas & Cayey, Carite Forest Reserve, Cerro La Santa, roadside among communications towers, ca. 870 m, 23 XII 1984, *Ackerman 2055*, UPRRP! Cerro La Santa, 3000 ft, 15 I 1968, *Howard 16940*, AMES! Luquillo Mts., 20 IX 1964, *Wagner 688*, AMES! Luquillo Mts., 1 XII 1953, *Winters* AMES! Sierra de Luquillo, VI 1885, *Sintenis 1816*, W!

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum boricuomutelianum* belongs to the Mutelianum Group characterized by the sympodial habit, simple stems, apical, paniculate inflorescence subtended by several imbricating bracts, 3-lobed lip and the petals as wide or wider than the sepals. The new species can be recognized by the caespitose habit, 3-5, narrowly elliptic leaves distributed towards the apex of the laterally compressed stems, erect racemose to paniculate inflorescence with the peduncle shorter than the apical leaf and the orange-yellow, cleistogamous flowers, the lip 3-lobed with the midlobe triangular, rounded. It is similar to *Epidendrum mutelianum* which has cream colored flowers, the apex of the column somewhat tinged purple and found on the lesser Antillies. They are both similar to *Epidendrum pallidiflorum* Hooker, but that species has greenish cream flowers with purple lines and a longer peduncle of the inflorescence (more than 10 cm long). They are somewhat similar to *Epidendrum patens* Sw., which has a longer peduncle (10 cm long), subrhombic, white flowers with purple dots at the base of the lip and the apex of the column, and the lip bilobed at the apex, the lobes divergent.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD (data deficient). The area where the species has been found is in the protected Caribbean National Forest and the Carite Forest Reserve.

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet *boricuomutelianum* refers to the "Borinquas", the original inhabitants of the island of Puerto Rico before its discovery by Christopher Columbus and the Mutelianum Group to which it belongs.

REFERENCES: Ackerman, J.D. 1995. *An Orchid Flora of Puerto Rico*. The New York Botanical Garden, U.S.A. 66-68. (as *E. mutelianum*.)



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