



EPIDENDRUM BRACHYCORYMBOSUM Hågsater & Dodson
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

EPIDENDRUM BRACHYCORYMBOSUM Hágsater et Dodson, sp. nov.

Type: ECUADOR: Zamora-Chinchipe: Road Valladolid-Río Palanda, ca. Km 6-8, ca. 1500 m, 31 January 1985, G. Harling & L. Andersson 21343. Holotype: QCA! (Illustration voucher). Isotype: GB!

Epidendro corymboso Ruiz & Pavón simile sed inflorescentiae pedunculo valde diminuto, floribus parvis simultaneis roseis, callo albo discrepans.

Hierba epífita, cespitosa, de más de 30 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, carnosas, gruesas, escasas, 1.0- 1.3 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, teretes en la base y lateralmente comprimidos hacia el ápice, 22[30] x 0.4-0.7 cm. **Hojas** hasta 9, alternas, subcoriáceas, las basales ligeramente más pequeñas, distribuidas en los 2/3 apicales del tallo; vaina tubular, finamente estriada, 1.0-2.6 x 0.45-0.9 cm; lámina elíptica, ápice redondeado, con una quilla dorsal baja, margen entero a crenulado, ligeramente revoluto en ejemplares secos, 4.0-6.5[7.5] x 1.3-2.6[3.6] cm. **Brácteas espatáceas** ausentes. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, erecta, 5-6 cm de largo; pedúnculo terete, ca. [3.0]4.7 x 1.15 cm, casi oculto en su totalidad por 2 brácteas tubulares, agudas, papiráceas, 3.0-3.5 x 4.0-4.5 cm; raquis oculto por las brácteas florales. **Brácteas florales** de 3/4 del largo del ovario, gradualmente más pequeñas hacia el ápice, triangulares, largamente acuminadas, 7-18 x 1.0-1.6 mm. **Ovario** terete, delgado, liso, no inflado, 14 mm de largo. **Flores** [10]30, sucesivas, resupinadas, color rosado, callo blanco; sin fragancia. **Sépalos** libres, glabros, oblongo elípticos, ligeramente acuminados, aristados, 7-nervados, margen entero, extendido, [10.4]13.4-14 x 2.6-3.6 mm; los **laterales** ligeramente oblicuos. **Pétalos** libres, angostamente elípticos, ligeramente acuminados, aristados, 3-nervados, las nervaduras muy ramificadas dando la apariencia de ser 7-nervados, margen entero, [10]12.6 x [2.5]2.6 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, cordado en la base, margen profundamente laciniado, 6.5 x 8.6[9] mm; callo complejo, pentabolado, el lóbulo apical alargado hasta la parte media del lóbulo medio; desprovisto de quillas; lóbulos laterales subrectangulares, 4.3 x 4.1 mm; lóbulo medio bilobado, los lóbulos subcuadrados, ligeramente divaricados, 3 x 5.4 mm. **Columna** recta, bordes laterales diminutamente dentados, prolongada ventralmente en el ápice en un par de lóbulos redondeados, arqueados hacia arriba, margen diminutamente dentado, 5[5.4] mm de largo. **Clinandrium** reducido, margen entero. **Antera** ovoide, 4-locular, fuertemente papilosa. **Polinios** 4, ovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales; caudícula, del doble de largo que los polinios, formada por tetradas dispuestas como tejas. **Rostelo** subapical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** penetrando la mitad del ovario, delgado, papiloso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, caespitose **herb.** **Roots** basal, fleshy, thin, scarce. **Stems** simple, cane-like, terete at the base and laterally compressed above. **Leaves** up to 9, alternate, subcoriaceous, the basal leaves slightly smaller, distributed throughout the apical 2/3 of the stem; sheath tubular, minutely striated; blade elliptic, apex rounded, margin entire to crenulate. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, erect, peduncle hidden by two tubular bracts, terete, very short, rachis hidden by the floral bracts. **Floral bracts** about 3/4 the length of the ovary, gradually shorter towards the apex, triangular, long-acuminate. **Ovary** terete, thin. **Flowers** 10[30], successive, resupinate, pink colored with a white callus, without fragrance. **Sepals** free, glabrous, oblong-elliptic, slightly acuminate, aristate, 7-veined, margin entire, spreading, the laterals somewhat oblique. **Petals** free, narrowly elliptic, slightly acuminate, aristate, 3-veined, the veins much branched and appearing 7-veined, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, base cordate, margin deeply laciniate; callus complex, 5-lobed, the apical lobe elongate to the middle of the midlobe, without keels; lateral lobes subrectangular; midlobe bilobed, the lobes subquadrate, slightly divaricate. **Column** straight, side lobes minutely dentate, arching upwards. **Clinandrium** reduced, margin entire. **Anther** ovoid, 4-celled, strongly papillate. **Pollinia** 4, ovoid, laterally compressed, subequal, caudicles twice as long as the pollinia, formed by tetrads like a row of roof shingles. **Rostellum** subapical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating half the ovary, thin, papillose.

OTHER SPECIMENS: PERU: Cajamarca: San Ignacio: District of Tabaconas, sector Culebras, 1660 m, 18 VIII 1993, O. Del Castillo ex Bennett 6367, USM

OTHER RECORDS: ECUADOR: without locality, hort. Ecuagenera, 10 March 2003, Hágsater 13931, photograph, AMO!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from southern Ecuador and northern Peru, on the eastern slopes of the Andes, ranging from 1500-1660 m elevation. Flowering in January and August, probably throughout the year.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum brachycorymbosum* belongs to the Schistochilum Group, Elongatum Subgroup, recognized by the caespitose habit, numerous oblong leaves, usually elongate peduncle of the inflorescence, with a raceme of nonresupinate flowers, complicated callus and granular caudicles of the pollinia. The species is immediately recognized by the short peduncle. At first sight, because the peduncle has bracts, the appearance of the plant seems to indicate a member of the Alpicolum Group, but the flowers immediately indicate otherwise. The flowers are typically a member of the Elongatum Subgroup, with the complicated callus, fringed lip and caudicles of the pollinia formed by long pollen tetrads reminiscent of a stack of roof shingles. Other species in this group all have a long peduncle, which characterizes the group.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek βραχυς- short, and χορυμβος- a cluster of flowers, in reference to the shape of the inflorescence, and the first available description of a species of this group from Peru.

REFERENCE: Bennett, D. E. & E. A. Christenson, *Icones Orch. Peruv.* 3: 241. The authors used the earliest available name from Peru, but did not consider the characteristic short peduncle of the inflorescence which distinguishes this species from the type of *E. corymbosum* Ruiz & Pavón located in Madrid.

