

EPIDENDRUM BRYOPHILUM Hágsater & Dodson
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 3

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

Type: ECUADOR: Loja: W slopes of the E Andes above Loja, 2300-2600 m, *F. C. Lehmann 8195*.

Holotype: AMES! (illustration voucher). Isotype: K!

Epidendro guacamayensi Hágsater & Dodson simile sed foliis angustioribus, columna arcuata, nectario lato et labelli lobis lateralibus columnam non superponentibus differens.

Hierba epífita, erecta, ramificada, 25-35 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, delgadas, 0.5-1.1 mm de grosor. **Tallos** teretes, ramificados principalmente cerca del ápice cuando maduros, el principal hasta más de 35 x 0.15-0.19 cm, las ramas a su vez ramificadas, 4-16 x 0.7-1.6 cm. **Hojas** en el tallo principal caedizas, distribuidas a todo lo largo del mismo, alternas, semejantes en cuanto a forma y tamaño a las de las ramas, en las ramificaciones agrupadas hacia el ápice; vaina tubular, estriada y verrugosa, hasta 3 cm de largo; lámina linear lanceolada, ápice agudo, carinada dorsalmente, margen apical sinuoso, dentado, 23-70 x 1.6-3.0 mm. **Espata** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, de los tallos principales y de las ramificaciones, florece una sola vez durante largo tiempo, racemosa, arqueada nutante, 1-4 cm de largo; pedúnculo terete, delgado, desprovisto de brácteas, 1.3-1.7 cm de largo; raquis en zigzag, en espiral. **Brácteas florales** más cortas a mucho más largas que el ovario, gradualmente más pequeñas hacia el ápice del raquis, triangulares, acuminadas, 2-4 mm de largo. **Flores** hasta 16, sucesivas, una abierta a la vez, resupinadas; sin datos de color y fragancia. **Ovario** corto, terete, delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado, 4 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, 3-nervados; el dorsal oblongo elíptico, obtuso, margen apical diminutamente dentado, 6.1 x 1.4 mm; los laterales ovados, agudos, con una quilla dorsal, margen entero, 6.0 x 2.6 mm. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, libres, lineares, obtusos, margen entero, 1-nervados, 5.8 x 0.5 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, entero, transversalmente elíptico al extenderse, apiculado, carnoso, abrazando a la columna en posición natural, 4.4 x 5.8 mm; escalooso; glabro. **Columna** recta, gruesa, arqueada 90° en la mitad basal, 4 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Antera** no vista. **Polinios** no vistos. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** pequeños, de ¼ del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** sin traspasar el perianto, amplio, pubescente a la altura de la cavidad estigmática, papiloso detrás de esta. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, erect, branching herb. **Roots** basal, thin. **Stems** terete, branching generally near the apex when mature, the branches shorter. **Leaves** numerous throughout the main stem and few towards the apex of the branches; sheath tubular, striated and verrucose; blade linear-lanceolate, acute, apical margin sinuous-dentate, dorsally carinate. **Inflorescence** apical, flowering over a long time period, arching-nutant, peduncle filiform, rachis spirally zigzag. **Floral bracts** shorter to much longer than the ovary, triangular, acuminate. **Flowers** up to 16, one open at a time, resupinate. **Ovary** short, thin. **Sepals** partly spreading, free, 3-veined, dorsal oblong-elliptic, obtuse, apical margin minutely dentate; laterals ovate, acute, margin entire. **Petals** partly spreading, linear, obtuse, margin entire, 1-veined. **Lip** entire, transversely elliptic, apiculate, embracing the column without overlapping, fleshy, ecallose, glabrous. **Column** arching 90° in the basal half. **Clinandrium** reduced, entire. **Nectary** not surpassing the perianth, wide, pubescent in front of the stigmatic cavity, papillose behind.

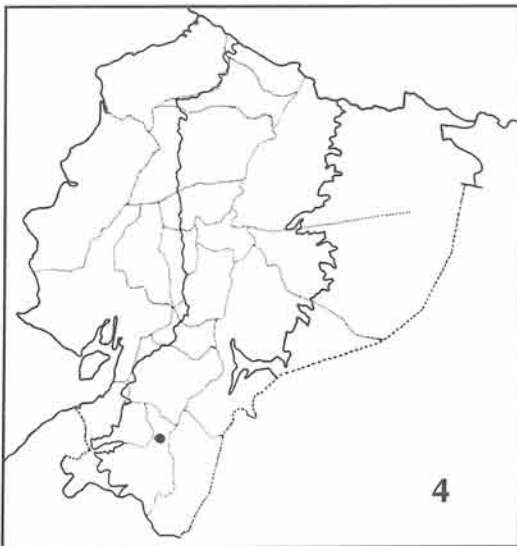
OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Ecuador: On the western slopes near the summit of the eastern range of the Andes, above Loja. Flowering in October, most probably throughout the year.

RECONGITION: *Epidendrum bryophilum* belongs to the elleanthoides group, guacamayense subgroup, characterized by branching stems, verrucose sheaths, long, narrow, grassy leaves, and a filiform peduncle; the species is recognized by the very narrow leaves, racemose inflorescence, the lateral lobes of the lip embracing the column without overlapping and the wide nectary. *Epidendrum guacamayense* Hágsater & Dodson has wider leaves (1.6-6.0 mm) the column deflexed at the base, a narrow nectary and the lateral lobes of the lip overlapping above the column. *Epidendrum elleanthoides* Schltr. has smaller flowers, slightly wider leaves, oblong-oblancheolate petals, the apical margin minutely dentate, and a pubescent lip that embraces the column without overlapping. *Epidendrum rubioi* Hágsater & Dodson has larger flowers (sepals 11 mm), shorter, wider leaves (to 35 x 7 mm), the lip laps over the column and is suborbicular and abruptly acute. *Epidendrum insignificans* Hágsater & Dodson has a sturdier habit overall, a nearly straight column which is partially exposed by the lip, linear-lanceolate petals, and a differently-shaped nectary; the inflorescence produces new racemes through the years, the peduncle being thin but not filiform. *Epidendrum chortophyllum* Schltr. has superficially similar habit and leaves, but the inflorescence with a short peduncle and simultaneous differently-shaped flowers distinguish it.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient. The area was visited recently by the authors (1999), the western slope having been mostly disturbed; the eastern still maintains a patch of uncut elfin-forest which however has suffered from unusually dry years. The Podocarpus National Park extends south of the locality.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek βρυον, moss, and φυλος, beloved, in reference to the preference of this species for growing amongst mosses above the tree-line.



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