



EPIDENDRUM CHALCOCHROMUM Hágsater

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Type: COSTA RICA: Cartago: Rt. 2 km 36.5, arriba de la Cangrejera, antes de San Cristobal Norte, 1910 m, 28 Junio 1988, *E. Hágsater & Dora Emilia de Retana 9495*. Holotype: INB! (Illustration voucher).
Flowers in spirit, AMO!

Epidendro intermixto Ames & C.Schweinf. simile sed inflorescentiis lateralibus longioribus, floribus brunneo-rubellis aliquantum ad basem viridulis, clinandrio integro, differt.

Hierba epífita, simpodial, cespitosa, de más de 30 cm de alto. **Raíces** carnosas, gruesas. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, teretes, delgados, erectos, de más de 17 x 0.2-0.32 cm. **Hojas** numerosas, distribuidas a lo largo de la mitad apical del tallo, alternas, subcoriáceas; vaina tubular, prominentemente verrucosa; 8-35 x 2.8-3.2 mm; lámina elíptico lanceolada, ápice subagudo, desigualmente bilobado, lisa, margen entero; 8.5-11.5 x 1.5-1.7 cm. **Bráctea** espatácea ausente. **Inflorescencias** apical y laterales, laxas, paucifloras; (la apical, erecta, incipientemente paniculada; 14 cm de largo; las laterales racemosas, subextendidas, alternas, distribuidas a lo largo del tercio apical del tallo, surgiendo a partir de la base de la vaina foliar; 4-9.5 cm de largo) pedúnculo delgado, terete, desprovisto de brácteas. **Bráctea floral** mucho más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, agudas, abrazadoras; 2-5 mm de largo. **Flores** 4-10 por inflorescencia, simultáneas, resupinadas, sépalos y pétalos pardo rojizo sobre verde olivo, columna y lábulo más rojizo, callo amarillo; sin fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado; 18-20 mm de largo. **Sépalos** libres, extendidos, obovado oblongos, obtusos, diminutamente apiculados, 8-9-nervados, margen entero, extendido, 9 x 3.7 mm. **Pétalos** libres, extendidos, obovado espatulado, redondeados, diminutamente apiculados, 3-nervados, las nervaduras laterales muy ramificadas a todo lo largo, margen extendido, entero; 8.3 x 3.1 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, truncado en el ápice, margen entero; 4 x 7.5 mm; bicaloso, los callos delgados, alargados casi hasta la base del lóbulo medio, divaricados; lóbulos laterales subrectangular oblongos, redondeados, oblicuos; 2.7 x 2 mm; lóbulo medio cortamente oblongo, diminutamente apiculado; 2.2 x 2 mm. **Columna** recta, gruesa, terminada en 3-lóbulos laminares truncados; 6 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** prominente, subcuadrado, truncado, entero, margen eroso, sin sobrepasar el cuerpo de la columna. **Antera** reniforme, plana al frente. **Polinios** no vistos. **Rostelo** perpendicular con respecto al eje de la columna, formando un seno amplio. **Nectario** penetrando ca. de 1/3 del ovario, angosto, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, sympodial, caespitose **herb.** **Roots** fleshy, thick. **Stem** simple, cane-like, terete, thin, erect. **Leaves** numerous, distributed throughout the apical half of the stem, alternate, subcoriaceous; sheath tubular, prominently verrucose; blade elliptic-lanceolate, subacute, unequally bilobed, smooth, margin entire. **Inflorescences** apical and laterals, lax and few-flowered, the apical inflorescence paniculate, peduncle thin, terete; the lateral inflorescences somewhat spreading, alternate, distributed along the apical 1/3 of the stem, from the base of the foliar sheath. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, triangular, acute. **Flowers** 4-10 per inflorescence, simultaneous, resupinate, sepals and petals reddish brown on olive-green, column and lip somewhat more red, callus yellow; unscented. **Ovary** terete, thin, smooth. **Sepals** free, spreading, obovate-oblong, obtuse, minutely apiculate, 8-9-veined, margin entire, spreading. **Petals** free, spreading, obovate-spathulate, rounded, minutely apiculate, 3-veined, the lateral veins branching throughout, margin spreading, entire. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, apex truncate, margin entire; bicallose, the calli thin, elongate, nearly reaching the base of the midlobe, divaricate; lateral lobes subrectangular-oblong, rounded, oblique; midlobe short-oblong, minutely apiculate. **Column** straight, thick, terminating in three entire, truncate lobes. **Clinandrium**- hood prominent, entire, without surpassing the body of the column, margin erose. **Rostellum** perpendicular to the axis of the column, forming a wide sinus. **Nectary** penetrating 1/3 of the ovary, narrow, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: COSTA RICA: Cartago: arriba de Taus, 11 XII 1984, *Dressler & Biología 312*, USJ!

OTHER RECORDS: COSTA RICA: Without locality, photographs, *Leon Glicenstein #4*, AMO! The flowers are lighter in color, ochre with a white column and lip, the lip with a slight purple tinge on the midlobe.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from central Costa Rica, at about 1800-1900 m altitude, epiphytic in cloud forest. Flowering from June to December.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum chalcochromum* 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, Intermixtum Subgroup which has small, membranaceous flowers with a petaloid, usually bifid clinandrium-hood, and obovoid, laterally compressed pollinia with long, granulose caudicles. The new species is recognized by the long lateral inflorescences (4-9.5 cm long), the 3-lobed lip with the midlobe entire and similar in size to the lateral lobes, the flowers reddish brown on olive-green, and the clinandrium-hood entire. It is very similar to *Epidendrum intermixtum* which is nearly identical, but the flowers are a clear pale green, with the lip white and the callus yellow, and the clinandrium-hood bifid, deeply cleft; the shorter lateral inflorescences (1-5 cm long). In Panama there are several species with a 3-lobed lip where the midlobe is entire, and produce apical and lateral inflorescences: *E. folsomii* Hágsater, *E. fortunae* Hágsater & Dressler and *E. fuscinum* (Dressler) Hágsater.



CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient. Apparently common locally.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek χαλκο, copper and χρομα, color, complexion, in reference to the reddish brown on olive-green color of the flowers which distinguishes this species from other most similar species.

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