



EPIDENDRUM CLEISTOGASTRIUM Hágsater & Dodson
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 3

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

Type: ECUADOR: Napo: Desviación Baeza Lago Agrio, 2 km antes de Baeza, bosque muy húmedo de montaña a lo largo del Río Papallacta, 1900 m, col. 4 Dec. 1986, pressed 20 Aug. 1998, *E. Hágsater & C. H. Dodson 9199*. Holotype: QCNE! Isotypes: AMO! SEL! Clonotype: 2 Oct. 1992, AMO! (spirit, illustration voucher). Clonotype: (division of the type number plant) 12 Mar. 1999, *Hágsater et al. 12109 COL!*

Epidendro marsupiali Lehmann & Kraenzlin simile sed floribus luteis cleistogamis vel partialiter apertis, labelli base cuneata, suis lobulis basalibus porrectis non retrorsis et columnam in positione naturali involventibus divergens.

Hierba epífita, reptante, ca. 5 cm de alto. Raíces basales, delgadas, carnosas, blancas, de 1 mm de grosor. Tallos sencillos, tipo caña, algo lateralmente aplanados, rectos, ligeramente engrosados hacia la parte media, carnosos, formados de 4-8 entrenudos, el tallo nuevo originándose de la parte media del tallo anterior, 3-6 x 0.2-0.4 cm. Hojas 4-8, desiguales, distribuidas a todo lo largo del tallo; vaina estriada y verde; lámina carnosa, con la parte abaxial mirando al substrato, elíptica ovada, bilobada, sulcada, margen entero, verde, 1.0-2.6 x 0.6-1.1 cm. Espata 1, conduplicada, angostamente obovado, obtusa; 0.8-1.1 x 0.2-0.5 cm. Inflorescencia apical, del crecimiento maduro, florece una sola vez, racemosa, corta; pedúnculo oculto dentro de la espata. Brácteas florales mucho más cortas que el ovario, angostamente triangulares, acuminadas, de 3 x 1 mm. Ovario ligeramente inflado ventralmente en el tercio apical, terete, no ornamentado, 17 x 2.5 mm. Flores 1-2, no resupinadas, simultáneas, amarillas, cleistógamas a parcialmente abiertas. Sépalos cerrados, oblongo lanceolados, agudos, 5-nervados, 13 x 2.5 mm. Pétalos cerrados, angostamente oblongos, agudos, 3-nervados, 12-11 x 1.5 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, trilobado, base cuneada, 12 x 7 mm; disco cóncavo, termina en una serie de nervaduras engrosadas, ecallose con 3 quillas longitudinales que terminan a la mitad del lóbulo medio; lóbulos laterales semiobovados, ocupando la mitad del largo del labelo, abrazando a la columna; lóbulo medio triangular, agudo. Columna corta, gruesa, 3.7 mm de largo. Clinandrio corto, entero. Antera reniforme, 4 locular. Polinios no vistos. Rostelo apical, no se pudo observar. Lóbulos laterales del estigma prominentes, de la mitad de largo de éste. Nectario penetrando 1/4 del ovario, estrangulado hacia la base de la columna. Cápsula no vista.

Epiphytic, repent herb. Roots basal, thin. Stems somewhat flattened, thickened, fleshy, the new stem arising from the middle of the previous stem. Leaves 4-8, unequal, distributed throughout the stem, green; sheath striated; blade articulate, elliptic-ovate, apex bilobed. Spathe conduplicate, narrowly obovate, obtuse. Inflorescence apical, from mature stem, flowering only once, racemose. Floral bracts much shorter than the ovary, narrowly triangular, acuminate. Ovary somewhat inflated ventrally at the apical 1/4, unornamented. Flowers 1-2, non-resupinate, simultaneous, yellow, cleistogamous to partly open. Sepals narrowly oblong-lanceolate, acute, 5-veined. Petals narrowly oblong, acute, 3-veined. Lip three-lobed, base cuneate; disc concave, the cavity ending by thickened veins, ecallose, with 3 parallel keels; lateral lobes semiobovate, occupying about half the length of the lip; midlobe triangular, acute. Column short, thick. Clinandrium short, margin entire. Nectary penetrating one fourth of the ovary, narrowed at the base of the column, unornamented.

OTHER SPECIMENS: COLOMBIA: Nariño: without precise locality, collected by José Luis Aguirre, cultivated at Colomborquídeas, Hágsater 11537 AMO!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Ecuador and southern Colombia, known only from the Amazon side of the Andes at 1900 m altitude. Flowering in cultivation in Mexico in March, August and October.



RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum cleistogastrum* belongs to the megagastrum group and is identified by the yellow, cleistogamous flowers, and the shape of the lip, which is three-lobed and cuneate, with the lateral lobes semiobovate. *Epidendrum amplexigastrum* Hágsater & Dodson is very similar but the flowers are copper-colored, and wide open, the sepals being 7-veined. *Epidendrum marsupiale* has a lip similar in both shape and size but the lateral lobes are separated by deep sinuses and spreading in front of the column instead of embracing it and overlapping. *Epidendrum megagastrum* has a triangular, cordate, entire lip and the sides do not cover the apex of the column.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek κλειστος closed, and γαστηρ belly, in reference to the cleistogamous (self-fertilizing, unopen flowers) and the group of species with excavated disc of the lip, though in this case not papillate, which is quite unusual in the genus *Epidendrum*.