

BOTANICAL MUSEUM LEAFLETS

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A NEW EPIDENDRUM FROM HONDURAS

BY
OAKES AMES

THE SPECIES of *Epidendrum* described below appears to be without close allies in the Central American flora. Superficially it suggests the rare *Epidendrum viejii* Reichb.f. and in its vegetative structure resembles *E. bisulcatum* Ames and *E. Brenesii* Schltr. From *E. Brenesii* it differs conspicuously in having a very dissimilar labellum.

Epidendrum comayaguense Ames, sp. nov. Caules perlongi, laxe ramosi. Folia valde coriacea, ovato-elliptica vel oblongo-lanceolata, acuta, plus minusve congesta. Racemi terminales, perbreves, plus minusve quinqueflori; pedunculus infra flores valde complanatus. Sepala lateralibus concaviuscula, ovato-lanceolata, acuminata, acuta. Sepalum dorsale lanceolatum. Petala lineari-lanceolata. Labellum simplex, suborbiculare, margine breviter et irregulariter fimbriato. Columna brevissima, carnosissima, antice valde excavata.

Roots coarse, spreading, white, smooth. Stems elongated, 6 dm. or more long, straggling, with numerous short branches which are entirely covered by rigid tubular sheaths and bearing near the ends two to four leaves and a terminal dense abbreviated raceme of dull purple flowers. Branches from 3–15 cm. long, the older ones

devoid of leaves and sometimes terminated by the rigid remains of the rachis of a raceme. Leaves crowded, coriaceous, 4–10 cm. long, up to 2.5 cm. wide, elliptic-ovate or oblong-lanceolate, tapering gradually to a subacute apex, the terminal one exceeding the raceme. Leaf-sheaths somewhat complanate, 1.5–3 cm. long. Inflorescence 3–5 cm. long, from the axil of a terminal leaf. Peduncle below the flowers conspicuously complanate and slightly winged. Bracts of the inflorescence 1–1.5 cm. long, linear-lanceolate, acute. Pedicel and ovary 1.5 cm. long, rigid. Flowers three to nine, very fleshy. Lateral sepals about 2 cm. long, 9 mm. wide, strongly concave, porrect, asymmetrically ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, acute, with the median nerve lightly carinate. Dorsal sepal 1.8 cm. long, about 7 mm. wide, slightly concave, lanceolate, acuminate, acute. Petals 1.7 cm. long, 3 mm. wide, linear-lanceolate, acute, margin entire or minutely scabrid. Labellum up to 2.5 cm. long, 2 cm. or more wide, simple, suborbicular, deflexed, very finely and irregularly fimbriate on the margin. Disc smooth, ecallose. Column extraordinarily fleshy, deeply excavated in front with the lateral walls strongly thickened and rounded at the entrance to the excavation; stigma concealed; androclinium entire, with the margin forming an almost perfect circle; pollinia four, completely filling the androclinium.

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, Department of Comayagua, Minas de Oro. Epiphyte in open mountain forest at 4,000 feet altitude. Sepals and petals dirty lavender with bright lavender veining, lip and column very dark, dull lavender. December 25, 1932. *J. B. Edwards 333*. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 39042.)

ILLUSTRATION: Plant drawn natural size. 1, labellum much enlarged. 2, column much enlarged.

