

EPIDENDRUM CROATII Hágsater
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 2

EPIDENDRUM CROATII Hágsater, sp. nov.

Holotype: PANAMA: Coclé: north slope and summit of Cerro Pilón, 900-1173 m, 16 Mar. 1973, *T. B. Croat 23240* MO! (illustration voucher).

Epidendro coriifolio Lindl. simile sed bracteis floralibus late rotundatis, sepalis carinatis, carina dentata, labelli marginibus petalisque minute dentatis, differt.

Hierba epífita, cespitosa, ca. 4 cm de alto. Raíces basales, carnosas, delgadas, ca. 1 mm de grosor. Tallos sencillos, tipo caña, lateralmente comprimidos hacia el ápice, rectos, 0.8-3 x 0.3-0.45 cm. Hojas 2-3, dísticas, distribuidas hacia el ápice del tallo, coriáceas, lisas; vaina lateralmente comprimida, lisa, hasta de 1.1 cm de largo; lámina elíptica a oblonga, ápice desigualmente bilobado, margen entero, verde, 1.2-4 x 0.8-1.2 cm. Espata ausente. Inflorescencia apical, del tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, dística, erecta, flexuosa, 2-5 cm de largo; pedúnculo con 1-2 brácteas, semejantes a las florales, no imbricadas, conduplicadas, de 8-14 mm de largo; raquis lateralmente comprimido, ancipitoso, no ornamentado. Brácteas florales más cortas que el ovario, ovadas, conduplicadas, redondeadas, 10-14 mm de largo; en los pedúnculos secos, ya sin flores, son entreabiertas, no imbricadas, algo arqueadas hacia adentro, no agudas. Flores 1-2, simultáneas, "verdosas". Ovario terete, no ornamentado, ca. 12 mm de largo. Sépalo dorsal reflexo, oblongo-elíptico, dorsalmente carinado, mucronado, margen extendido, 5-nervado, 11 x 3 mm. Sépalos laterales entreabiertos, ovados, mucronados, dorsalmente carinado la carina prominente, irregularmente dentada, margen extendido, 7-nervados, 12 x 4 mm. Pétalos entreabiertos, lineares, agudos, margen extendido, finamente dentados, 1-nervados, 11 x 1 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, entero, subcuadrado, base cordada, ligeramente emarginado, con una carina central roma formando un apículo grueso, margen irregularmente dentado, 7 x 9 mm; bicalloso. Columna recta, gruesa, 6 mm de largo. Clinandrio reducido, entero. Antera ovada, 4-locular. Rostelo apical, hendido. Cápsula no vista.

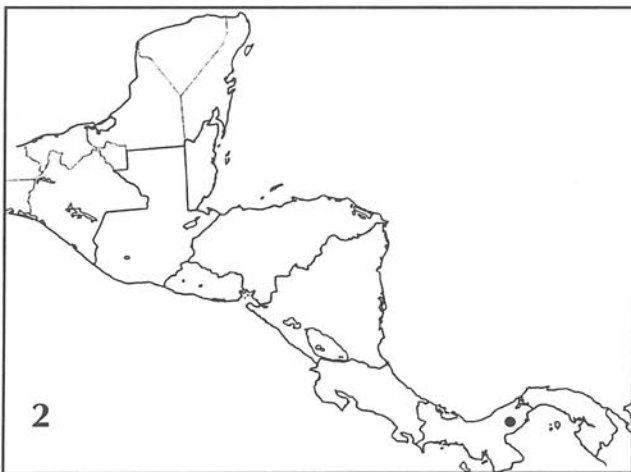
Caespitose epiphyte. Stem simple, laterally compressed toward the apex, erect. Leaves 2-3, distichous, elliptic to oblong, apex bilobed, coriaceous. Inflorescence apical from mature growth, flowers only once, distichous, erect, flexuous; rachis laterally compressed, ancipitose. Floral bracts shorter than ovary, conduplicate, rounded, arched inward. Flowers 1-2, simultaneous, "greenish". Ovary not inflated. Dorsal sepal oblong-elliptic, carinate, 5-veined. Lateral sepals ovate, mucronate, dorsally prominently keeled, the keel dentate, 7-veined. Petals linear, acute, margin minutely dentate, 1-veined. Lip united to the column, entire, subquadrate, base cordate, slightly emarginate, with a low, thickened median keel forming a fleshy apicule, margin dentate; bicallose. Column straight. Clinandrium reduced. Anther ovate, 4-celled.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the type locality, epiphyte in wet forests on Cerro Pilón, Coclé, Panama, ca. 900-1200 m altitude. Flowering in March.

RECOGNITION: Closely related to *Epidendrum coriifolium*, *E. croatii* is the smallest species of the group, and can be recognized by the floral bracts which are rounded, short, not imbricating, the dentate keels of the sepals and margin of the lip and petals are unique to this group. *Epidendrum summerhayesii* Hágsater also has rounded bracts, but these are imbricating and plants are large and deep green with maroon tinge, the successive, numerous flowers usually purple. *Epidendrum coriifolium* is found in Mexico and Guatemala, and has compact plants, the inflorescence about as long as the apical leaf, and flowers are simultaneous. *Epidendrum caluerorum* Hágsater has long, narrow leaves and acute, subparallel bracts about as long as the ovary, on a long peduncle.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD (data deficient).

ETYMOLOGY: Dedicated to Dr. Thomas B. Croat, specialist in the Araceae, who has collected widely in Tropical America and collected the type specimen.



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