



EPIDENDRUM CRUCIFORME Hágsater & E.Santiago
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 5

EPIDENDRUM CRUCIFORME Hágsater et E.Santiago, *sp. nov.*

Type: NICARAGUA: [Jinotega: 1 km south of Jinotega Rock Quarry, edge of cloud forest in full sun on small scrub trees, 4400 ft], **Alfonse Henry Heller 6436**. Holotype: SEL 14832! (Illustration voucher). Copy of illustration, F 1644362! There is a specimen at SEL 426 with the same collector's number which does not correspond to this species, and has a flower of *E. hawkesii* in the envelope.

Epidendro aberranti Schltr. simile sed floribus minoribus, ovario breve, labello non nisi bene ad columnam basem juncto, lobulis lateralibus ad angulum 90° extensis, lobulo medio oblongo duos appendices triangulares parvos ferenti, discrepat.

Hierba epífita, simpodial, cespitosa; 23-40 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, gruesas, carnosas; 2 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, teretes, delgados; 17-40 x 0.2-0.3 cm; provistos en la base de vainas tubulares no foliares, verrugosas; 12-23 mm de largo. **Hojas** 4-6 o más, distribuidas en el ápice del tallo, alternas, articuladas; vaina tubular, verrugosa; 10-12 x 2-3 mm; lámina lanceolada, ápice agudo, margen entero; 3-5.5 x 0.9-1.2 cm. **Bráctea** espatácea ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, corta, erecta; 3-5 cm de largo; pedúnculo, terete, delgado, desprovisto de brácteas, liso; 9 mm de largo; raquis terete, delgado, recto a fractiflexo. **Brácteas florales** prominentes, de la mitad o más del largo del ovario, angostamente triangulares, agudas, abrazadoras; 4-6 mm de largo. **Flores** 15, simultáneas, resupinadas, color rosado a blancas con el ápice rosado; sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, ligeramente arqueado, algo dilatado justo detrás del perianto, liso; 5-10 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, carnosos en la mitad apical, ovado triangulares, agudos, con una quilla dorsal en el ápice, 5-nervados, dorsalmente verrugosos, margen entero; 4.5-7 x 1.2-2 mm; los laterales oblicuos, ligeramente falcados. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, dirigidos hacia arriba, casi paralelos al sépalo dorsal, libres, ligeramente carnosos, linear oblanceolados, oblicuos, agudos, 1-nervados, margen entero; 4-6 x 0.9-1.2 mm. **Labelo** libre con respecto a la columna casi en su totalidad, (unido a la base de la misma por sólo unos 2 mm) trilobado, truncado en la base, margen entero; 3-3.3 x 3.4-4.5 mm, bicallose, los callos paralelos, delgados, decurrentes por debajo de la columna y alargados hasta la base de los lóbulos laterales; disco provisto de una quilla delgada; lóbulos laterales extendidos en un ángulo de 90° con respecto al eje del labelo, dirigidos hacia arriba en posición natural, oblongo triangulares, redondeados, ligeramente oblicuos; 1.2-1.8 x 6-8 mm; lóbulo medio oblongo, el ápice obtuso, con un par de apéndices triangulares, y por lo tanto la mitad apical en forma de rombo, redondeados, carnosos; 1-2 x 1-1.4 mm. **Columna** ligeramente jorobada la base, delgada, tubular, con tres quillas decurrentes a todo lo largo de la misma; 5 mm de largo incluyendo el clinandrio. **Clinandrio** prominente, ca. del doble del largo de la columna, ápice entero o 3-lobado, finamente dentado. **Antera** reniforme, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, lateralmente aplanados, tipo ala de pájaro, desiguales en tamaño, un par de la mitad del tamaño del otro; caudículas laminares, cortas. **Rostelo** perpendicular con respecto al eje de la columna, formando un seno amplio. **Nectario** no visto. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, sympodial, caespitose herb. **Roots** basal, thick, fleshy. **Stems** simple, cane-like, terete, thin; provided basally with tubular, non-foliaceous, verrucose sheaths. **Leaves** 4-6 or more, distributed towards the apex of the stem; blade lanceolate, apex acute, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, short, erect; peduncle terete, thin, without bracts, smooth; rachis terete, thin, straight to zigzag. **Floral bracts** prominent, half as long as the ovary or longer, narrowly triangular, acute. **Flowers** 15, simultaneous, resupinate, pink to white with pink apices. **Ovary** terete, thin, slightly arching, somewhat dilated behind the perianth, smooth. **Sepals** partly spreading, free, fleshy throughout the apical half, ovate-triangular, acute, with a dorsal apical keel, 5-veined, dorsally verrucose, margin entire; the lateral sepals oblique, slightly falcate. **Petals** partly spreading, directed upwards, nearly parallel to the dorsal sepal, free, slightly fleshy, linear-oblanceolate, oblique, acute, 1-veined, margin entire. **Lip** nearly totally free of the column, united only for a short length at the base, 3-lobed, base truncate, margin entire; bicallose, the calli parallel, thin, decurrent throughout the basal claw and reaching the base of the lateral lobes; disc provided with a thin keel; lateral lobes spreading at a 90° angle with respect to the axis, directed upwards in natural position, oblong-triangular, rounded, slightly oblique; midlobe oblong, apex obtuse, with a pair of widely triangular apical appendages, thus the apical half rhombic, rounded, fleshy. **Column** somewhat hump-backed at the base, thin, tubular, with 3 decurrent keels running down the whole length. **Clinandrium-hood** prominent, about twice as long as the body of the column, thin, tubular, apex entire or 3-lobed, margin finely dentate. **Anther** reniform, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, laterally compressed, bird-wing type, unequal; caudicles short, laminar.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

OTHER RECORDS: NICARAGUA: Jinotega: Cerro Diablo, 4200 ft, *Heller 8215*, Xerox copy note and illustration, AMO!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from Cordillera Central de Nicaragua, at 1300 m altitude, epiphyte in cloud forest. Flowering October-November.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum cruciforme* belongs to the *Oerstedella* Group, *Aberrans* Subgroup. The species is recognized by the very small flowers (sepals 4.5-7 mm long), pink or white and pink flowers, the petals upright, nearly parallel to the dorsal sepal, the somewhat arching ovary, humped column, and the lateral lobes perpendicular to the axis of the lip, oblong, triangular, and the midlobe simple, with the apical half rhombic due to small, wide, triangular lobes. It is similar to *Epidendrum unicallosum* Hágsater which has lilac-pink, somewhat larger flowers (sepals 9.2-10 mm long), the ovary triquetrus and straight, the 3-lobed lip united to the column throughout and the very fleshy midlobe of the lip. *Epidendrum atypicum* Hágsater & E.Santiago has spreading flowers, a triquetrus ovary and a 3-lobed lip united to the column throughout, with the lateral lobes cuneate and the midlobe subulate, very fleshy and the callus laminar, tridentate. *Epidendrum aberrans* Schltr. has pink flowers with a white lip, the lip united to the column throughout, and the lateral lobes of the lip inserted at a 45° angle, with the midlobe clearly bilobed.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *crux*, *crucis*, cross, and *-formis*, shape, thus cross-shaped, in reference to the lip with the lateral lobes spreading at a 90° angle with respect to the axis of the lip, which distinguishes the species. The name was proposed by Heller in a letter to L.O. Williams.

REFERENCES: Hamer, F., 1990, Orchids of Central America an Illustrated field guide, *Selbyana* 11 (Suppl.): 545, as *Oerstedella* sp.

