

A NEW EPIDENDRUM FROM PANAMA

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THERE seems to be no end to the endemic species of orchids which Mr. Allen is able to find in and around El Valle de Antón, Coclé Province. This adds yet another species to an already long list. — The specific name means "hidden flower."

Epidendrum (§ EUEPIDENDRUM) *cryptanthum* L. O. Williams *sp. nov.*

Herbae repentes epiphyticae ramificate. Folia elliptica vel elliptico-ovalia, acuta, coriacea. Inflorescentia racema congesta, subcapitata. Sepalum dorsale elliptico-oblongum, obtusum. Sepala lateralia elliptico-oblonga vel elliptico-ovalia, obtusa vel acuta, leviter arcuata. Petala oblanceolato-oblonga, obtusa. Labellum breviter unguiculatum; lamina obovata, carnosa, basi cordata, apice apiculata; unguis perbrevis. Columna perbrevis.

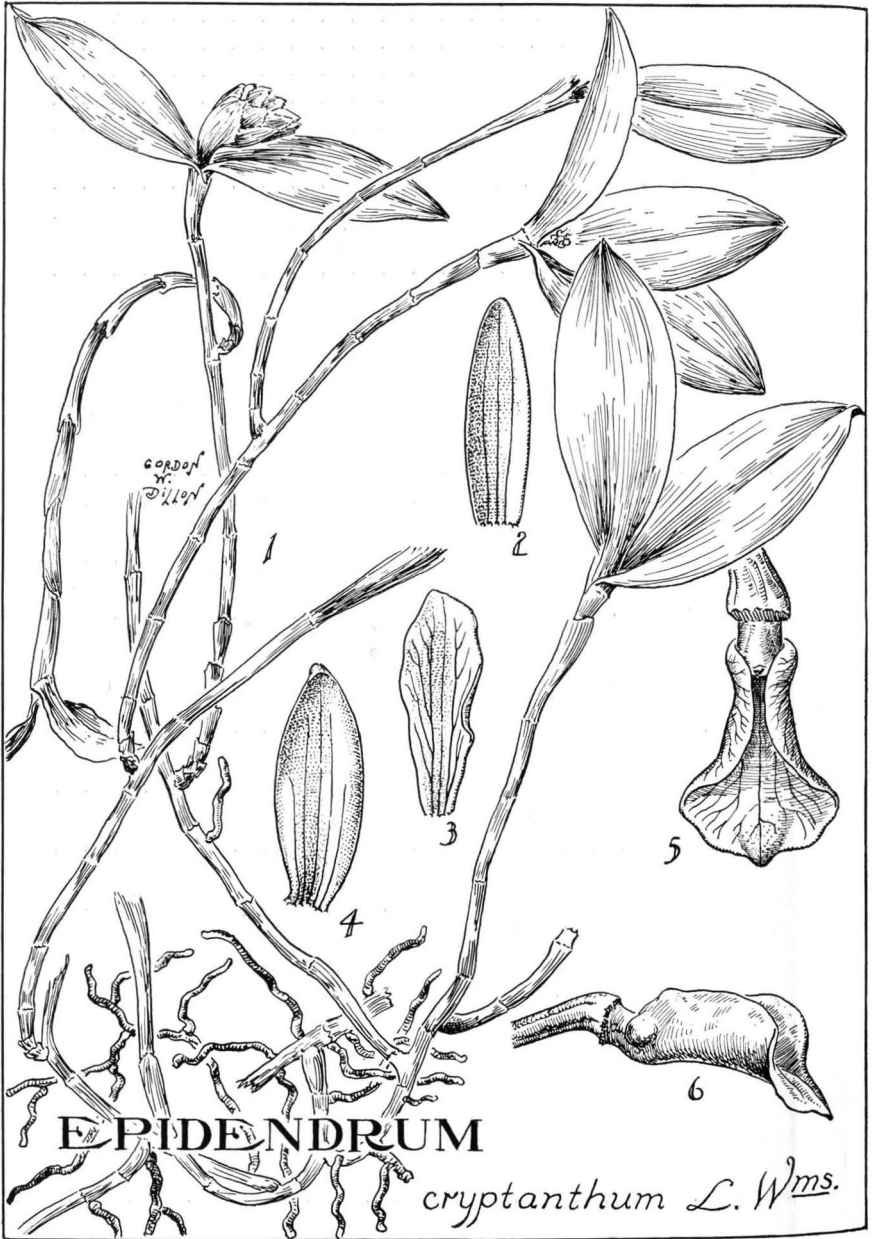
Branched repent epiphytic herbs. Stems arcuate, branched and continuing the growth from about the middle of the previous year's growth, unilateral in origin, covered with scarios sheaths but soon becoming naked and vernicose, somewhat swollen toward the apex of each growth. Leaves 5.5–8 cm. long and 1.7–3 cm. broad, elliptic to elliptic-oval, acute, coriaceous, 2–3 at the apex of each growth. Inflorescence ca. 3 cm. long, a short, congested, subcapitate raceme; bracts conspicuous, up to ca. 2 cm. long, ovate or ovate-oblong, scarios, entire or somewhat lacerate toward the apex, the outer ones sterile, the inner few fertile. Flowers small, about as long as the subtending bracts and hidden by them. Dorsal sepal ca. 10 mm. long and 3 mm. broad, elliptic-oblong, obtuse. Lateral sepals ca. 10–11 mm. long and 3.5–4 mm. broad, elliptic-oblong or elliptic-oval, obtuse or acutish, slightly arcuate. Petals ca. 10 mm. long and 3.5–4 mm. broad, oblanceolate-oblong, obtuse. Lip short unguiculate; lamina 10 mm. long and 8 mm. broad, obovate, cordate at the base, the apex apiculate, lateral margins involute, the disc fleshy; claw ca. 1.5–2 mm. long, adnate to the column. Column 2–2.5 mm. long, very short for the section.

PANAMA: epiphytic, hills north of El Valle de Antón, Coclé Province, alt. 800–1000 m., bracts brown, sepals and petals cream, labellum white, November 21, 1942, *Allen 2262* (TYPE in Herb. Ames.).

Epidendrum cryptanthum is closely allied to *E. polyclamys* Schltr., a species known only from Costa Rica, but differs in having a shorter, subcapitate inflorescence, much smaller flowers with quite differently shaped lip and the sepals and petals somewhat differently shaped and narrower.

The plate and description made from an herbarium specimen and an inflorescence preserved in liquid.

OUR mail contains many requests for the determination of botanical orchids and most often only a flower is sent to make the determination. When the species represented is a common one which we know well this is often enough but if it happens to be an uncommon one which we do not recognize off hand it is often difficult if not impossible to determine it from only a flower. If possible send flowers, leaves, stem or bulbs and be sure to give the country of origin.



EXPLANATION OF PLATE

FIGURE 1, habit, $\times \frac{1}{2}$. FIG. 2, dorsal sepal, $\times 3$. FIG. 3, petal, $\times 3$. FIG. 4, lateral sepal, $\times 3$. FIG. 5, lip and column from above, $\times 3$. FIG. 6, lip (and base of column) from the side.