

EPIDENDRUM CRYPTORHACHIS Hágsater

THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 5

Plate 823

ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 8. 2006

*EPIDENDRUM CRYPTORHACHIS* Hágsater, sp. nov.

Type: ECUADOR: Pichincha: Guayabamba, 8 March 1877, *Vidal Sénège s.n.* Holotype: P! (Illustration voucher, pro parte.) Isotype: P! (Illustration voucher, pro parte.) Flower in spirit, AMO!

*Epidendro gracillimo* Rchb.f. simile sed racemis compactioribus, rhachidi recta, petalis ad apicem latioribus et cuneatis, ovario inflato vesiculam prominentem brevem post perianthum formanti, divergens.

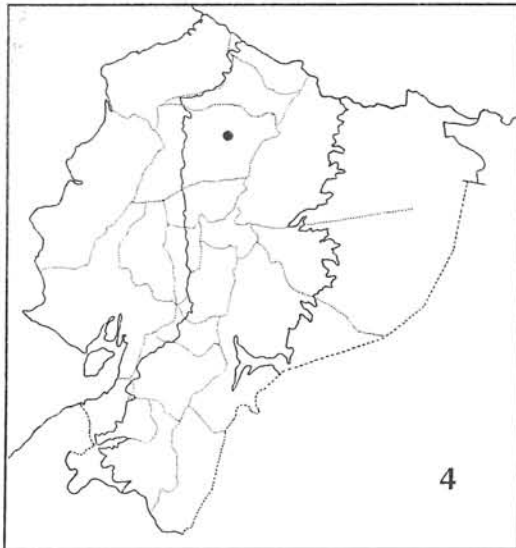
**Hierba** cespitosa, simpodial, 17-43 cm de alto incluyendo la inflorescencia. **Raíces** basales, escasas, delgadas, 0.5-1.5 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, cortos, tipo caña, teretes en la base a lateralmente aplanados en el ápice, delgados, flexuosos, 5-11.5 x 0.22-0.57 cm. **Hojas** 3-6, distribuidas a lo largo de los tallos, alternas, suberectas y arqueadas; vaina infundibuliforme en seco, finamente estriada, 8-17 x 2.2-5.7 mm; lámina linear lanceolada, acuminada, coriácea, conduplicada, margen entero, 2.8-8 x 0.4-0.6 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, paniculada, erecta, multiflora, densa, 19-32 cm de largo; pedúnculo elongado, delgado, ancipitoso, bialado, ligeramente sinuoso, 6.5-12.5 cm de largo, provisto de 1-5 brácteas distribuidas a todo lo largo, tubulares y ancipitosas en la base, conduplicadas hacia la mitad apical y largamente acuminadas, 14-32 mm de largo; provista de 6-9 racimos cortos, cada racimo recto, corto, denso, multifloro, subparalelo al eje de la inflorescencia, envuelto en gran parte por una bráctea semejante a las del pedúnculo pero progresivamente más cortas; los racimos de 1.4-2.7 cm de largo. **Brácteas florales** pequeñas, más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, agudas, abrazadoras, 1-2 mm de largo. **Flores** ca. de 90 por inflorescencia, más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, pequeñas, membranáceas, simultáneas, resupinadas, flores de color rojo pardo, sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, inflado ventralmente en el 1/3 apical, formando una vesícula prominente, liso, 5-6 mm de largo. **Sépalos** extendidos, libres, obovados, ápice redondeado, diminutamente apiculado, 3-nervados, margen extendido, entero, 3.3-3.5 x 1.6-2 mm; los laterales ligeramente oblicuos. **Pétalos** extendidos, libres, angostamente espatulados, ápice incipientemente bilobado, 1-nervados, margen entero, extendido, 3.7 x 1 mm. **Labelo** unido totalmente a la columna, 3-lobado, reniforme, base cordada, margen ligeramente crenado, los lóbulos laterales transversalmente elípticos, el lóbulo medio inconspicuamente bilobado, con un apículo diminuto, cada lóbulo redondeado, 2.5 x 4.3 mm; bicalloso, los callos prominentes, globosos, cortos; provisto de 3-quillas, delgadas y lisas, que se desvanecen antes de llegar al ápice de la lámina. **Columna** corta arqueada, 3 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, margen crenado. **Antera** esférica, con una quilla roma, baja a todo lo largo, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidas. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** penetrando 1/3 del ovario, muy inflado, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Sympodial, caespitose herb. **Roots** basal, scarce, thin. **Stems** simple, short, cane-like, terete at the base, laterally compressed towards the apex, thin, flexuous. **Leaves** 3-6, distributed throughout the stems, alternate, suberect and arching; sheath infundibuliform when dry, minutely striated; blade linear-lanceolate, acuminate, coriaceous, conduplicate, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, paniculate, erect, many-flowered, dense; peduncle elongate, thin, ancipitose, two-winged, slightly sinuous, provided with 1-5 bracts distributed throughout, tubular and ancipitose at the base, conduplicate above, long, acuminate; the inflorescence with 6-9 short, straight racemes, dense, many-flowered, subparallel to the axis of the inflorescence, enveloped at the base by large conduplicate bracts, similar to those of the peduncle but progressively shorter. **Floral bracts** small, shorter than the ovary, triangular, acute. **Flowers** ca. 90, 4-14 per raceme, small, membranaceous, simultaneous, resupinate, red-brown. **Ovary** terete, thin, ventrally inflated towards the apical 1/3, forming a prominent vesicle, smooth. **Sepals** spreading, free, obovate, apex rounded, minutely apiculate, 3-veined, margin spreading, entire; the lateral sepals slightly oblique. **Petals** spreading, free, narrowly spatulate, apex slightly bilobed, 1-veined, margin spreading, entire. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, reniform, base cordate, margin slightly crenate, lateral lobes transversely elliptic, midlobe inconspicuously 2-lobed with a minute apicule, the lobes rounded; bicallose, the calli prominent, globose, short, disc with 3 thin, smooth keels which disappear before reaching the apex. **Column** short, arching. **Clinandrium-hood** short, margin crenate. **Anther** spherical, with a low rounded keel in front, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, laterally compressed. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating 1/3 of the ovary, much inflated, smooth.

**OTHER SPECIMENS:** None seen.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Known only from the type, from central Ecuador, northeast of Quito, at about 2900 m altitude. Flowering in December.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum cryptorhachis* belongs to the Epidendropsis Group, Gracillimum Subgroup characterized by the sympodial, caespitose, relatively small plants with non-thickened stems, long, paniculate inflorescence, delicate small



flowers, and long, narrow, subcoriaceous leaves. The species is recognized by the short plants with a long inflorescence, about twice as long as the apical leaf or more, appearing at first sight racemose, with an erect, laterally compressed rachis, prominent bracts, but under closer inspection paniculate, with short, strict, parallel, 4-14-flowered racemes appearing from each of the upper bracts, ovary short, 5-6 mm long, the petals narrowly spatulate, 3.7 x 1 mm, and a wide, reniform, 3-lobed lip, deeply cordate, the midlobe formed by two small, rounded lobes with a wide apicule in the sinus. It is similar to *Epidendrum gracillimum* but that species has narrower leaves, a long narrow nectary penetrating about half the ovary, linear petals, and an entire, reniform lip. *Epidendrum physophorum* Schltr. from Bolivia has a much shorter inflorescence, the branches widespreading, flowers smaller, a short, inflated nectary, a comparatively slender column, sepals 3.25 mm long, petals linear, and the reniform, entire lip with a dentate-erose margin.

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD. Data deficient. The area where the pretype was collected over a century ago has been heavily disturbed.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek κρυπτος, hidden, and ραχίς, axis of the inflorescence, in reference to the short, straight racemes of the panicle which are hidden partially by the bracts of the inflorescence, and parallel to the primary rachis, so they are not apparent at first sight.

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Herbario AMO

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