

**EPIDENDRUM DAVIDSEI** Hágsater

Text on the reverse side

*EPIDENDRUM DAVIDSEI* Hágsater, *sp. nov.*

Holotype: COSTA RICA: Limits between provinces of San José and Cartago: 2.5 km directly W of highest peak of Cerros Cuericó, 3200-3279 m, 18 Sept. 1983, *G. Davidse* 24859, AMO! (illustration voucher.) Isotypes: BM, MO, SEL!

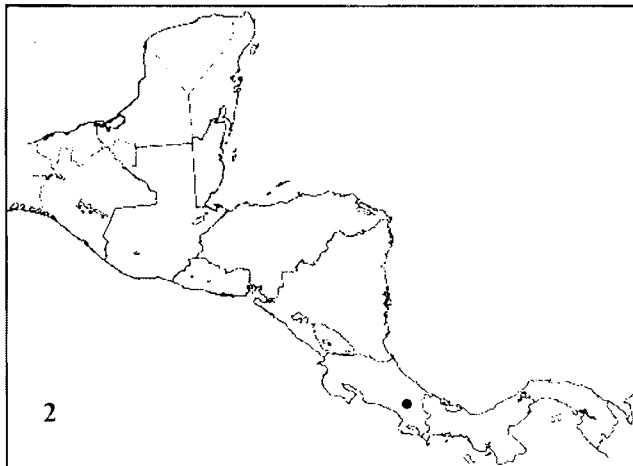
*Epidendrum bracteoso* Ames & C. Schweinf. simile, sed planta majore, labello pandurato, subquadrangulari, 12 x 8 mm, et petalis trinerviis distinguendo.

Hierba epífita, cespitosa, ca. 40-50 cm de alto. Raíces basales, carnosas, 1.5-2 mm de grosor. Tallos erectos, rectos, lateralmente comprimidos, envueltos en la mitad basal por 5 vainas escariosas, hasta 25 cm de largo. Hojas ca. 5, distribuidas a lo largo de la mitad apical del tallo; vaina tubular, lateralmente comprimida; lámina angostamente elíptico-lanceolada, aguda, 8-14.5 x 1.5-2.2 cm. Inflorescencia terminal, del tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, racemosa o produciendo una rama, arqueada, ca. 12 cm de largo, con una espata tubular, lateralmente comprimida, aguda, de 6 cm de largo. Brácteas florales grandes, conduplicadas, cuculadas, ovadas, agudas al extenderlas (imposibles de extender sin romperse), progresivamente más pequeñas, espaciadas, 11-13 mm de largo. Flores ca. 7-9, "amarillo pálido ligeramente teñidas de rosado por detrás". Ovario dilatado en el tercio apical, 12-20 mm de largo. Sépalo dorsal entreabierto, angostamente elíptico, subcoriáceo, 5-nervado, 12-15 x ca. 5 mm. Sépalos laterales entreabiertos, angostamente elípticos, agudos, ligeramente falcados, carnosos-subcoriáceos, 5(6)-nervados, 12-15 x ca. 5 mm. Pétalos entreabiertos, angostamente elípticos, fuertemente constrictos cerca de la base, redondeados, subcoriáceos, 3-nervados, 11-12 x ca. 4 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, entero, panduriforme, constricto abajo de la mitad, subcuadrangular, cordado, redondeado, con un mucrón formado por el ápice de la quilla central, plano en posición natural, carnosos, con tres quillas en el centro, bicalloso, los callos algo cóncavos en la cara externa, 12 x 8 mm. Columna ligeramente arqueada, 5-6 mm de largo. Clinandrio prominente, sobresaliendo ligeramente en el ápice de la columna, margen eroso. Antera plana, circundada por un filo bajo, con una quilla roma central, 4-locular. Polinios 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, el par interior algo más pequeño; caudículas aparentemente muy pequeñas. Nectario prominente, penetrando 1/3 del ovario. Cápsula elipsoide, 3.2 x 2 cm, con pedicelo de 4 mm de largo.

Epiphytic, caespitose herb. Roots fleshy, from the base of the stems. Stems erect, straight, laterally compressed, base enveloped by 5 scarious sheaths, upper half covered by leaf sheaths. Leaves ca. 5, evenly distributed in the apical half of the stems; sheath tubular, laterally compressed; blade narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, acute. Inflorescence terminal, from the mature stem, flowers only once, racemose to 1-branched, arcuate, with a tubular, laterally compressed, acute spathe. Floral bracts large, conduplicate, cucullate, ovate, acute when flattened (impossible to flatten without tearing), progressively smaller, spaced apart. Flowers ca. 7-9, "dull yellow with pink tinge on the back". Ovary swollen ventrally on the apical 1/3. Dorsal sepal partly open, narrowly elliptic, acute, fleshy-subcoriaceous, 5-veined. Lateral sepals partly open, narrowly elliptic, acute, fleshy-subcoriaceous, 5(6)-veined, slightly falcate. Petals partly open, narrowly elliptic, strongly constricted near the base, rounded, subcoriaceous, 3-veined. Lip united to the column, entire, pandurate, slightly constricted below the middle, subquadrangular, cordate, rounded, with a mucro formed by the end of the central keel, flat in natural position, fleshy, with 3 thick, central keels, bicallose, the calli somewhat concave on the outer side. Column slightly arcuate. Clinandrium prominent, slightly protruding at the apex of the column, margin erose. Anther flat, surrounded by a rim and with a prominent, low, rounded keel running down the middle, 4-celled. Pollinia 4, obovoid, unequal, the inner pair somewhat smaller; caudicles apparently very small. Nectary prominent, penetrating about 1/3 of the ovary. Capsule ellipsoid, with a short pedicel.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Known only from the type collection, from a remote site in montane forest along a mountain ridge dominated by *Quercus* and *Clethra* with *Chusquea* understory. Flowering and fruiting (from previous flowering) in September.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum davidsei* is distinguished from all other Central American species by the relatively large plants (ca. 40-50 cm high) of caespitose habit, with terminal, racemose to 1-branched inflorescence with a basal spathe, the large, conduplicate, cucullate, progressively smaller, acute floral bracts and the fleshy flowers with 3-veined petals and pandurate, subquadrangular lip 12 x 8 mm, with three fleshy keels running down the center. It is closely related to



*E. bracteosum* Ames & C. Schweinf., which can be easily distinguished by the much smaller plants up to 14 cm high, the flowers with 1-veined petals and smaller segments, the lip 7-8 x 6 mm. Both species seem to be sympatric at the type locality of *E. davidsei*, and both belong rather loosely in the *Epidendrum coriifolium* Lindl. group, with the inflorescence, however, sometimes branched and not distichous.

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** Unknown.

**ETYMOLOGY:** The species is named in honor of Gerrit Davidse, of the Missouri Botanical Garden, who collected the specimen that served as type.

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Plate 127

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