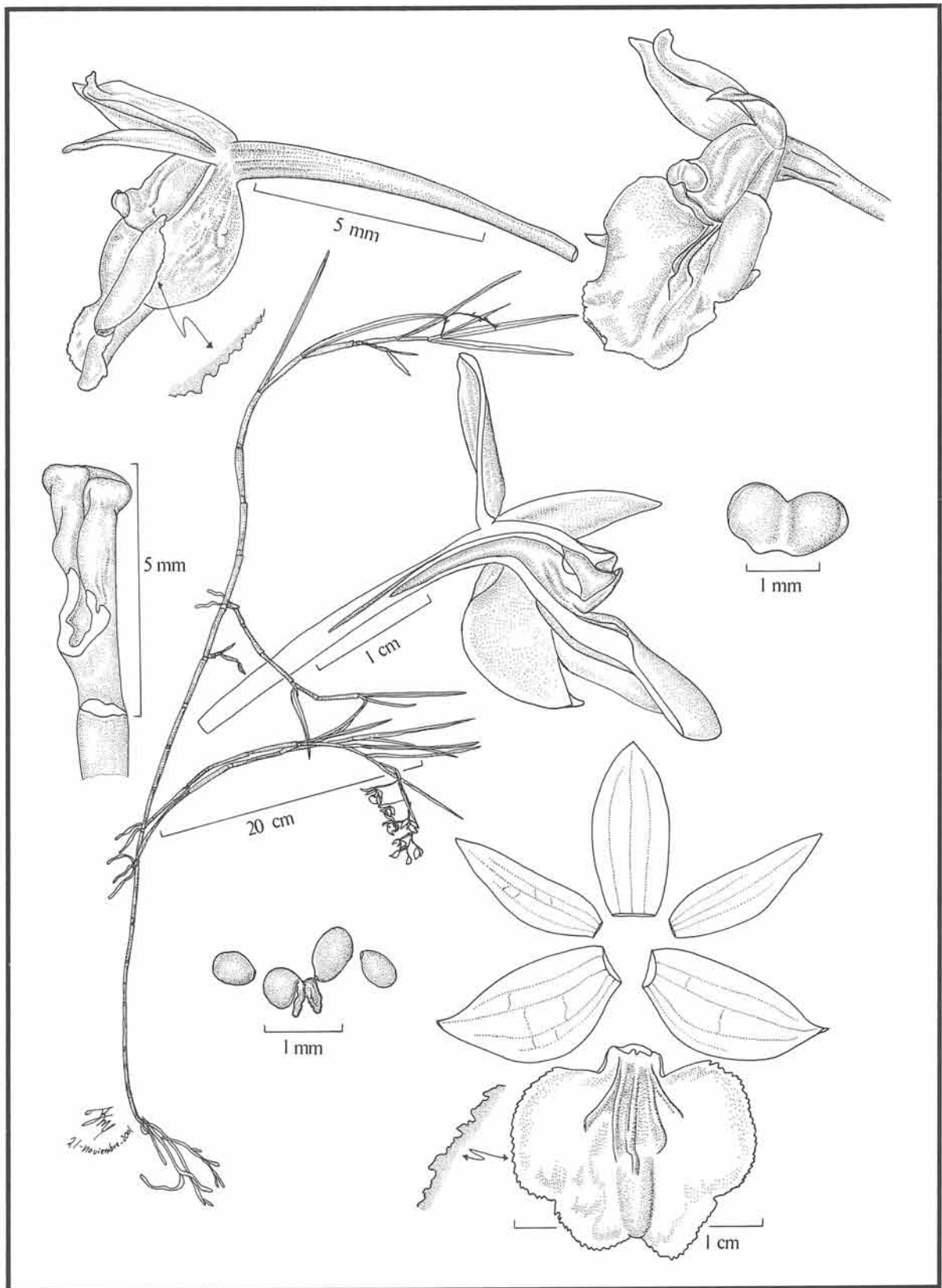




EPIDENDRUM DODSONII Hágsater & E. Santiago
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

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

Type: ECUADOR: Pichincha: km 64, Santo Domingo to Quito via Tandapi. Epiphytic, 1900 m, 2 March 1986, C. H. Dodson, C. A. Luer, A. Hirtz & A. Embree 16345. Holotype: RPSC! (Illustration voucher). Isotype: QCNE!

Epidendro trachysepalum Hágsater simile sed foliis longioribus, inflorescentia pluriflora, floribus successivis, sepalis laevibus, petalis anguste ovatis margine integra, labello omnino cum columna connato, 5 carinas graciles et laeves ferenti recedit.

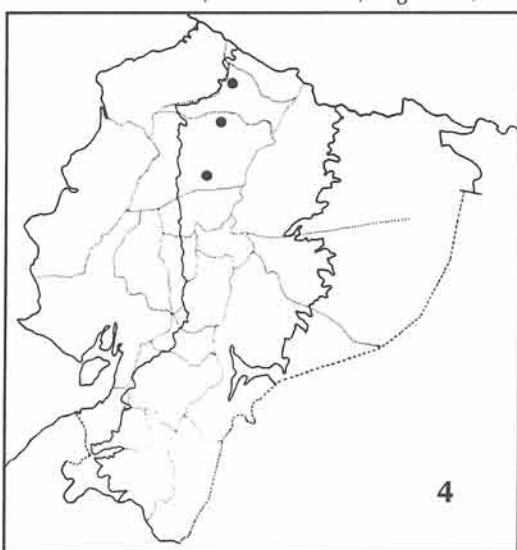
Hierba epífita o terrestre, ramificada, de más de 64 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales y en la base de las ramificaciones, carnosas, delgadas, blancas, 0.7-1.0 mm de grosor. **Tallos** ramificados, tipo caña, teretes, delgados, el principal hasta 64 x 0.2-0.26 cm; las ramas 12.5-20 x 0.1-0.18 cm. **Hojas** 7-8, distribuidas hacia el ápice de los tallos, alternas; vainas tubulares, estriadas, las basales no persistentes, 25-40 x 1.3-3.0 mm; lámina linear lanceolada, lisa, ápice bilobado a desigualmente bilobado, apiculado, margen entero, 5.5-11.6 x 0.26-0.45 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, en el tallo principal como en las ramificaciones, racemosa, ligeramente arqueada, florece una sola vez, 5.0-7.0 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, terete, delgado, 1.4 cm de largo, ocasionalmente provisto tanto en la base como en la parte media de una bráctea triangular, acuminada, amplexicaule, 4.0-6.0 mm de largo; raquis terete, recto, 5.2 mm de largo. **Brácteas florales** mucho más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, agudas, gradualmente más pequeñas, 2.0 mm de largo. **Flores** hasta 19, distribuidas laxamente a lo largo del raquis, sucesivas, estando abiertas de manera simultánea varias (generalmente más de 4), color café claro o crema; sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** terete, liso, no inflado, 9.0-14 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, elípticos, subagudos, margen entero; el **dorsal** 3-nervado, 7.0 x 3.0 mm; los **laterales** diminutamente apiculados, oblicuos, 4-nervados, 7.6 x 3.8 mm. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, libres, angostamente ovados, agudos, 3-nervados, margen entero, oblicuos, 6.7 x 2.0 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, base subtruncada, margen biserrado, 7.5 x 9.8 mm; escalooso; disco provisto de 5 quillas delgadas y lisas en el área basal, desvaneciéndose hacia la parte media del disco, las laterales cortas; lóbulos laterales hemiorbiculares 2.8 x 5.3 mm; lóbulo medio del mismo tamaño que los laterales, bilobado, los lóbulos redondeados, con un mucrón grueso en el seno apical, 2.3 x 6.3 mm. **Columna** arqueada, el ápice arqueado hacia arriba, 5 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, entero. **Antera** reniforme, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, ovoides, desiguales. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** de ½ del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** de la mitad del largo del ovario, liso, no inflado. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic or terrestrial branching herb. **Roots** thin, from the base of the plant and branches. **Stems** branching, cane-like, terete, thin. **Leaves** 7-8, distributed towards the apex of the stems; sheath tubular, striated; blade linear-lanceolate, apex unequally bilobed, apiculate, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, somewhat arching, long. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, triangular, acute. **Flowers** up to 19, laxly distributed, successive, up to 4 open at one time, light brown or cream. **Ovary** terete. **Sepals** partly spreading, free, elliptic, subacute, margin entire, **dorsal** 3-veined, **laterals** minutely apiculate, oblique, 4-veined. **Petals** partly spreading, free, narrowly ovate, acute, margin entire, oblique, 3-veined. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, base subtruncate, margin biserrate, ecallose, disc provided with 5 thin, smooth, keels reaching about the middle of the lip; lateral lobes semiorbicular, midlobe about the same size as the laterals, bilobed with a thickened mucro in the middle. **Clinandrium** hood short, entire. **Anther** reniform, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, unequal. **Nectary** penetrating half the ovary.

OTHER SPECIMENS: ECUADOR: Imbabura: Otavalo-Selva Alegre, 2200 a 2600 m, 14 II 1989, Palacios 3772, QCNE! Pichincha: Nanegal, IV 1901, Sodiro s.n., QPLS!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from western Ecuador. Growing on small trees on very steep hillsides at 1900-2600 m. Flowering in February and April.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum dodsonii* belongs to the Diothonea Group and Subgroup which is characterized by the branching plants, linear lanceolate to oblong, bilobed leaves, racemose, arching-nutant inflorescence, membranaceous flowers (rarely fleshy), the entire to 3-lobed, ecallose lip with the margin erose without or with 1-10 thin, smooth to erose keels, the column completely to obliquely united to the lip, the anther reniform. The new species is recognized by the thin stems, linear-lanceolate leaves less than 5 mm wide, successive flowers on a 5-7 cm long inflorescence, sepals 7.0-7.6 mm long, petals narrowly ovate with entire margin, and the lip united to the arched column provided with 5 keels. It keys out next to *Epidendrum dolichorhachis* Hágsater & Dodson, which has thicker stems, wider leaves (4-12 mm), simultaneous, larger flowers, (sepals 8-12 mm), oblong petals, the keels of the lip are erose, the column forms a short arch at the base and then the upturned apex makes it sigmoid dorsally. *Epidendrum trachysepalum* from Peru, also has thin stems and narrow long leaves, but it has a short (2.5 cm) inflorescence, simultaneous flowers, 9.5-11 mm long sepals, strongly uncinatate dorsally, petals linear to linear-lanceolate, the margin minutely erose and the lip united obliquely to the column and forming a prominent sac at the base. *Epidendrum cochabambanum* Dodson & Vásquez (syn.: *Epidendrum stenophyllum* Hágsater & Dodson), known from Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, has still narrower, long leaves (to 2.5 mm wide), a short inflorescence (2-3.5 cm), dorsally granulose sepals, linear-elliptic petals, the union of the column and the entire lip form a sac, and the column is provided with a pair of square corners near the base of the sides that unite it to the lip. *Epidendrum microdiothoneum* Hágsater & Dodson has much shorter leaves, (to 5.5 cm), a glomerulose inflorescence, with simultaneous, small flowers with a strong odor of fresh pears, the ovary inflated ventrally along 2/3 of its length, elliptic petals and the lip united obliquely to the arched column.



CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient. The species has been collected thrice along seldom traveled roads, and thus appears to be very rare.

ETYMOLOGY: In honor of Calaway H. Dodson, founding director of The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens (Sarasota, Florida), he has dedicated his life to the understanding and description of the orchids of Ecuador and collected the type specimen of this species. He has also been a mentor and teacher for many orchid specialists, mainly but not only, in tropical America. For his work in Ecuador he was decorated with the Orden Nacional al Mérito en el Grado de Caballero by the President of Ecuador.