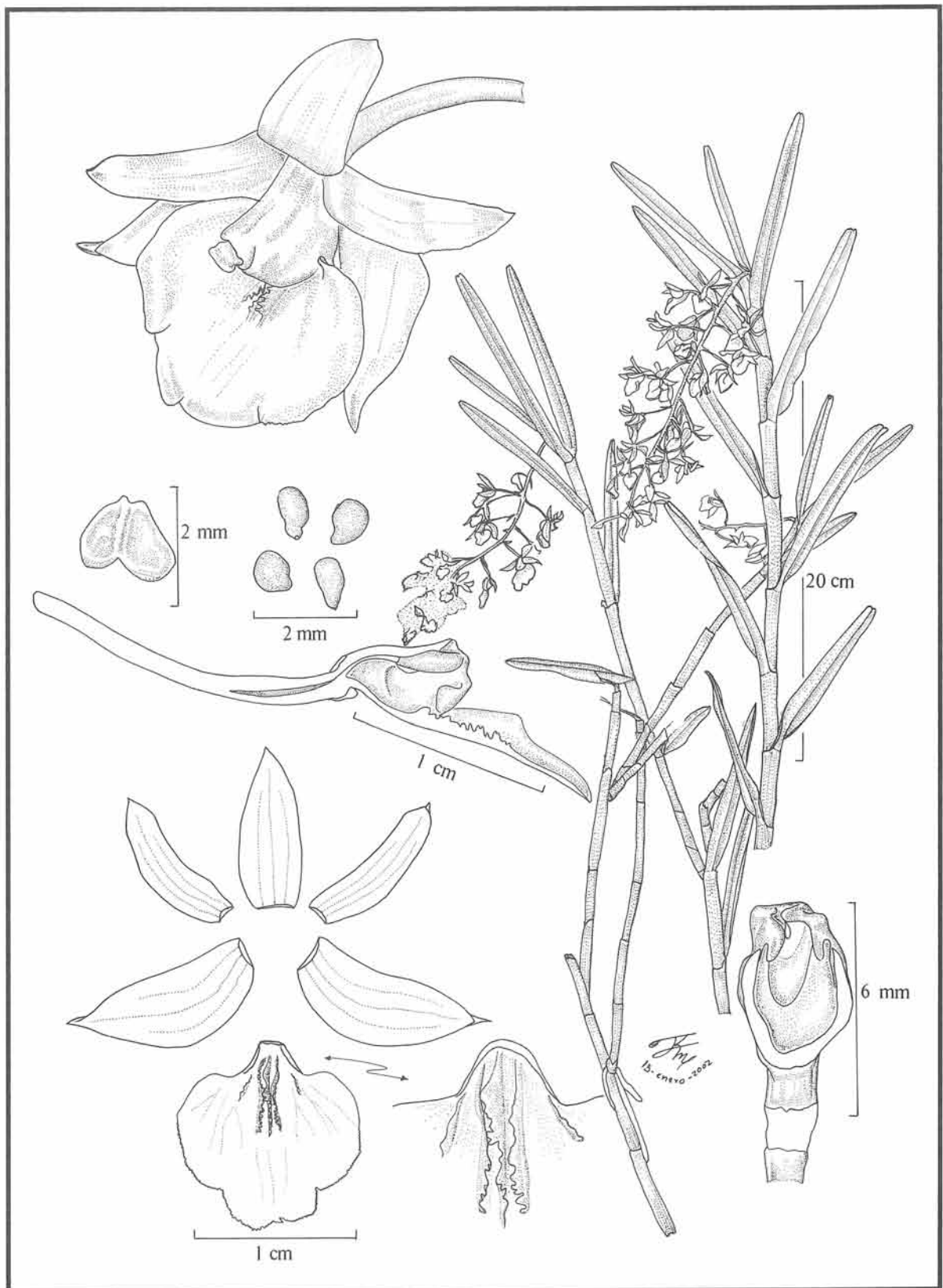




EPIDENDRUM DOLICHORHACHIS Hágsater & Dodson
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

EPIDENDRUM DOLICHORHACHIS Hágsater et Dodson, *sp. nov.*

Type: ECUADOR: Cotopaxi: Km 85, Quevedo-Latacunga, 2800 m, terrestrial, 18 February 1985, **C. H. & P. M. Dodson 15569**. Holotype: RPSC! (Illustration voucher). Isotypes: AMES! MO! QCA! QCNE!

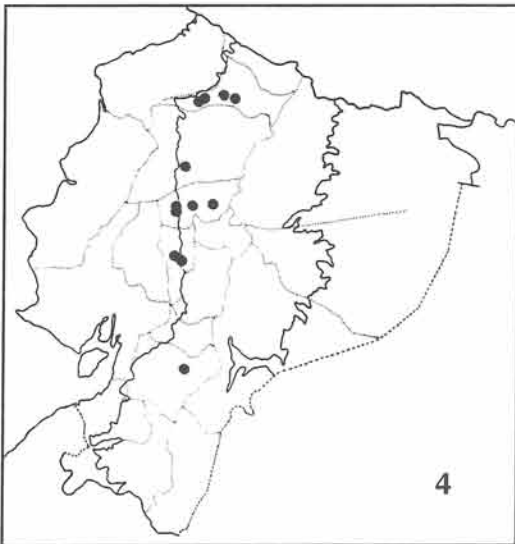
Epidendro heteroneuro (Rchb.f. & Warsc.) Hágsater & Dodson simile sed inflorescentia elongata multiflora, floribus minoribus, petalis oblongis sursus arcuatis, labello 5 carinas eroso-serrulatas ferenti discrepans.

Hierba terrestre o epífita, ramificada, de 50-75 cm de alto. **Raíces** numerosas en la base del tallo, ocasionales en las ramas inferiores, carnosas, gruesas, blancas, 0.7-3.5 mm de grosor. **Tallos** ramificados, rectos, tipo caña, teretes, delgados a gruesos, producidos del tercio apical del tallo anterior; los principales de 30-43 x 0.2-0.7 cm; las ramificaciones, 6-30 x 0.18-0.35 cm. **Hojas** 6-13, distribuidas hacia la zona media apical de los tallos, alternas, subcoriáceas; vaina tubular, estriada, algunas teñidas de púrpura, 15-40 x 1.8-6 mm; lámina angostamente lanceolada, ápice bilobado, con una quilla dorsal baja, margen entero, ligeramente revuelto cuando seco, lisa, 2.6-11.4 x 0.5-1.2 cm. **Bráctea espátea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, arqueado nutante, laxa, florece una sola vez, multiflora, 6-12.5 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, terete, delgado, 0.6-2.0 cm de largo. **Brácteas florales** más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, agudas a largamente acuminadas, 2-8 mm de largo. **Flores** 18-30, simultáneas, resupinadas, membranáceas, raramente carnosas, color café claro hasta verdusco, ocasionalmente amarillentas con puntos violetas, sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, liso, no inflado, 9-19 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, agudos, 3-nervados, margen entero, [7.5]8.5-12 x 3.6-5 mm; el **dorsal** angostamente ovado; los **laterales** angostamente elípticos, aristados, oblicuos. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, libres, ligeramente arqueados hacia arriba, oblongos, subagudos, diminutamente apiculados, 3-nervado, margen entero, 6.7-10 x 2.3-2.6 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, formando una apertura amplia desde la base hacia el ápice del mismo, trilobado, base ligeramente cordada, margen denticulado hacia la zona media apical, [8]10 x [9]11.3 mm; ecaloso, disco provisto de 5 quillas fuertemente erosas-serruladas, las 3 centrales alargadas casi hasta la parte media del disco, el par lateral mucho más corto; lóbulos laterales hemiorbiculares, redondeados, 3.6 x 7.6 mm; lóbulo medio anchamente cuadrado, ligeramente emarginado. **Columna** corta, gruesa, ligeramente sigmoide, dorsalmente arqueada hacia arriba en el ápice, ventralmente provista de un par de alas gradualmente más anchas de la base hacia el ápice de la columna, cortamente involutas, 6 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, entero. **Antera** reniforme, con una quilla roma al frente, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, ovoides. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** pequeños, delgados, de 1/3 del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** una cavidad amplia, triangular, no ornamentada, sin penetrar el ovario. **Cápsula** no vista.

Branching, terrestrial or epiphytic **herb**. **Roots** numerous at the base of the plant, thick, occasionally above. **Stems** branching, straight, cane-like, terete, produced from the upper third of the previous stem, progressively shorter. **Leaves** 6-13, distributed towards the apical half of each stem; sheath tubular, striated; blade narrowly lanceolate, apex bilobed, with a low dorsal keel, subcoriaceous, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, arching-nutant, laxa, flowering only once; peduncle short, rachis elongate, terete, straight. **Floral bracts** shorter than the ovary, triangular, acuminate. **Flowers** 18-30, simultaneous, resupinate, membranaceous, rarely fleshy, light brown to greenish, occasionally yellowish with violet dots, not fragrant. **Ovary** terete, thin. **Sepals** partly spreading, free, acute, margin entire, 3-veined; **dorsal** narrowly ovate; **laterals** narrowly elliptic, aristate, oblique. **Petals** partly spreading, free, oblong, subacute, minutely apiculate, arching upwards, margin entire, 3-veined. **Lip** united to the column, forming a wide, oblique aperture, 3-lobed, base slightly cordate, margin denticulate towards the apical half; ecallose, disc provided with 5 strongly erose-serrulate keels, the three mid-keels nearly reaching the middle of the lip, the lateral keels much shorter, surface of the lip unornamented; lateral lobes hemi-orbicular, rounded, midlobe widely subquadrate, somewhat emarginate. **Column** short, thick, slightly sigmoid dorsally, arching upwards towards the apex, ventrally with a pair of wings gradually wider from the base to the apex of the column, slightly involute. **Clinandrium** hood short, entire. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** a wide cavity formed by the column and lip, without penetrating the ovary.

OTHER SPECIMENS: ECUADOR: Azuay: Molleturo, 2800 m, 01 XI 1994, *Cornejo* 3541, QCNE! Hort. Cuenca, Ecuagenera, 2000 m, *Hágsater* 12265, AMO! Bolívar: Guaranda-Caluma, 2800 m, 10 III 1982, *Luer* 7255, SEL! Ibid. 7256, SEL! Cotopaxi: Píjaló, 2725 m, 19 XII 1976, *Boeke* 543, MO!, NY!, QCA, SEL! Quevedo-Latacunga, 2800-3200 m, 14 II 1963, *Dodson* 2252, AAU! SEL! Ibid. 3300 m, 5 V 1985, *Dodson* 15842, AMES, MO!, QCA!, QCNE! Ibid. *Hágsater* 7602, AMO! QCNE! Ibid. 3450-3500 m, 8 IV 1973, *Holm-Nielsen* 3300, AAU! AMES. [habit unusually robust] Ibid. 26 IV 1979, *Løjtnant* 13756, AAU! (x2) GB! Imbabura: Otavalo-Selva Alegre, 2700 m, 5 II 1985, *Dodson* 16322, QCA! RPSC! Cuicocha-Selva Alegre, 2600 m, 6 XII 1986, *Hágsater* 9196, AMO! COL! QCNE! Selva Alegre, 1400 m, V 1989, *Hirtz* 4246, RPSC! Intag to Apuela, 2700 m, 7 V 1980, *Holm-Nielsen* 23308, AAU! Ibid. 23311, AAU! Otavalo-Apuela, 2000-2500 m, 8 II 1979, *Luer* 3929, SEL! Pichincha: Quito-Santo Domingo, 2800 m, 3 II 1983, *Dodson* 13642, SEL!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Ecuador, upper western slope of the Andes, growing at [1400]2000-3350 m, epiphyte or terrestrial in Montane Forest or on road banks. Flowering throughout the year.



RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum dolichorhachis* 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 distinguished by the elongate rachis of the inflorescence, the oblong-lanceolate petals arched upwards, the lip united to the column, with 5 erose-dentate keels, the central keels reach the center of the lip and the lateral keels much shorter, the thick column is dorsally sigmoid, with the apex arched upwards. It is similar to *Epidendrum heterothoneum* which has shorter branches, the rachis of the inflorescence compact, 2-3 cm long, with up to 10 flowers, these larger, the sepals 15-16 mm long and the petals linear, 1.5 mm wide. *Epidendrum suavis* (Rchb. f. & Warsc.) Løjtnant has a similar vegetative architecture, fewer flowers on the inflorescence, the flowers larger, petals obtrullate, the lip obliquely united to the column which is 8 mm long, the lip entire, ovate or subovate.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient. The species is rather common and widespread, as can be noted from the numerous herbarium specimens.

ETIMOLOGY: From the Greek *δολιχος*- long, and *ραχίς*- rachis, in reference to the relatively elongate rachis of the inflorescence typical of this species.