

FLOWERS OF EPIDENDRUM \times DOROTEAE

Epidendrum \times *doroteae* (*E. ciliare* \times *E. nocturnum*) P. H. Allen.

Herbae erectae, plusminusve 38 cm. altae. Pseudobulbi 12.7–30.4 cm. alti, usque ad 1.3 cm. lati, anguste clavati cum parte superiore incrassata distincte complanata et bifoliata vel trifoliata, parte inferiore tereti vaginis papyraceis arcte vestita. Pseudobulbi vetustiores omnino nudati, species sectionis *Barkeriae* simulates. Folia matura lanceolata, acuta, crasse coriacea, circa 12.7 usque ad 17.7 cm. longa, usque ad 3.4 cm. lata. Inflorescentiae terminales, racemosae, uni vel triflorae, pedunculi parte inferiore bracteis tribus vel quinque, foliaceis, oblique lanceolatis, acuminatis, valde imbricantibus ornata, eas *Epidendri ciliaris* revocantibus. Flores grandes (usque ad 15 cm. in diametro), eos *Epidendri nocturni* simulates, nocte

suaveolentes. Sepala patalaeque persimilia, linearia, sensim acuminata, 6.4–7.6 cm. longa, circa 2 mm. lata, primum pallida aureo-viridia, deinde flavescentia. Labellum columnae valde adnatum quemadmodum in *Epidendro nocturno*; lamina valde trilobata, alba cum carinis, binis, anguste oblongis, pallide aureis; lobi laterales oblique ovati, acuti, marginibus irregulariter serratis vel fimbriatis, circa 2.5 cm. longi, et prope basim 1.9 cm. lati; lobus intermedius anguste linearis, acuminatus, plusminusve 5 cm. longus et 3 mm. latus, e sinu profundo, V-formi exoriens. Columna et anthera alba. Ovarium teres, longum, gracile, viride, plusminusve 7.6 cm. longum.

Plants erect, averaging about 15" in height. Individual pseudobulbs 5–12" in height and $\frac{5}{16}$ "– $\frac{1}{2}$ " in width; narrowly clavate in outline, the upper thickened portion distinctly flattened and bearing 2 or 3 alternate, leathery leaves, the lower terete portions of the cane closely enveloped in papery sheaths. Older pseudobulbs, after several years, become completely bare of foliage and display, in that state, the somewhat undulant outline in the fleshy parts and the persistent terminal spike normally associated with species of the section *Barkeria*. The lanceolate, acute leaves are definitely thickened and leathery in texture and vary, in mature canes, from about 5 to 7 inches in length and 1 to $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width for the terminal pair and to about half that for the third member, if present, grading down to considerably less on weaker growth. Inflorescences are terminal racemes of 1 to 3 flowers, the lowermost 1 to 3 inches of the scape closely enveloped in a strongly flattened green sheath, composed of 3 to 5 obliquely lanceolate, acuminate, tightly imbricating bracts, very reminiscent, on a reduced scale, of those found in our local form of *Epidendrum ciliare*.

Individual flowers are large (up to 6 inches in diameter) but "spidery" and at first glance remarkably like those of *Epidendrum nocturnum*, including a rich fragrance which is developed after dark and which persists for some time on the following morning. The green, terete ovary, as in *nocturnum* is long and slender and averages about 3 inches in length. Sepals and petals are at first pale yellowish green in color, but darken to yellow with age. These are nearly identical in form, all being linear and gradually acuminate, averaging about $\frac{3}{16}$ " in width and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches in length. The lip, including the column and anther, is white, with the exception of a pair of pale yellow and narrowly oblong keels which form a broad channel just below the hollow apex of the column, which, as in *nocturnum*, is affixed to the lip throughout its length. The lip is strongly 3-lobed and nearly identical to that of *nocturnum* with the exception of a definite, but somewhat irregular fringe on the margins of the laterals, more nearly approximating, in this respect, the condition found in *E. ciliare*. The mid-lobe of the lip is narrowly linear and acuminate in outline and averages about 2 inches in length and $\frac{1}{8}$ " in width at the base, which arises from the interior of a deep, V-shaped sinus that penetrates to the central callus. Lateral lobes are obliquely ovate and acute in outline, with irregularly serrate or fimbriate margins and average about 1 inch in length and $\frac{3}{4}$ " in width, as measured across the base where the pair join the column.

Hills east of the Yeguaré Valley, Department of Francisco Morazan, Honduras. 3200 ft. elevation in pine-oak woods. October 28, 1957. Only one plant seen, epiphytic on *Quercus*. Allen 6786 TYPE.

This remarkable natural hybrid is dedicated to my wife, Dorothy O. Allen, who shared in its discovery and whose active interest in the group has been adequately demonstrated by her numerous drawings. — *El Zamorano, Honduras*.