

EPIDENDRUM DWYERI Hágsater

Text on the reverse side

EPIDENDRUM DWYERI Hágsater, *sp. nov.*

Holotype: PANAMA: Chiriquí: Boquete, Cerro Horqueta, 5-6000 ft, 8 August 1967, J.D. Dwyer 7733 & S.M.V. Hayden, MO! (illustration voucher; illustration prepared from a hydrated flower and a xerox of the specimen, AMO!)

Epidendro wercklei Schltr. simile, sed differt sepalis petalisque brunneis (chocolatinis), labello albo, suborbiculari, margini apicali sinuoso, et petalis spatulatis, truncato-rotundatis.

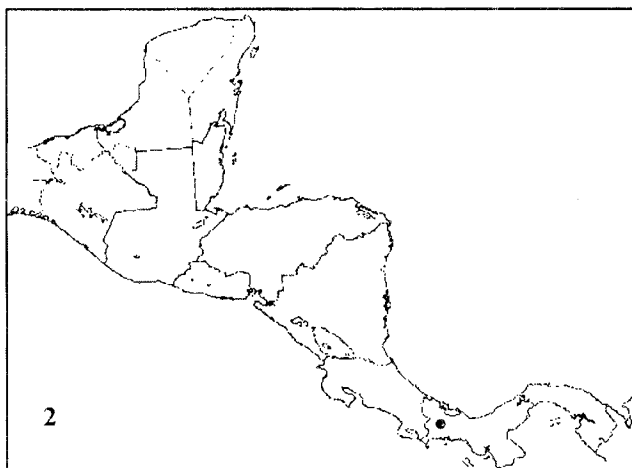
Hierba epífita, escandente, donde el nuevo tallo se produce de un entrenudo intermedio del tallo anterior, hasta 80 cm de alto. Raíces carnosas, delgadas, de los entrenudos basales de cada tallo, ca. 1 mm de grosor. Tallos erectos, arqueados a rectos, lateralmente comprimidos, parcialmente cubiertos en la base por 2-3 vainas tubulares no foliáceas, ca. 35 x 0.2-0.6 cm. Hojas 2-4, distribuidas en el 1/4 apical del tallo; vaina tubular, 2-3 cm de largo; lámina elíptica, aguda, 6.5-10 x 1.4-2.1 cm. Inflorescencia terminal, del tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, paniculada, 10-20 cm de largo; raquis flexuoso, fuertemente comprimido lateralmente, ancipitoso, cada nudo con una bráctea conduplicada, triangular, aguda, de 5-7 mm de largo. Flores 8-26, simultáneas, probablemente no resupinadas, sépalos y pétalos color pardo-chocolate, labelo blanco. Sépalo dorsal extendido, elíptico, el ápice formando un ángulo recto, 5-nervado, 7 x 4 mm. Sépalos laterales extendidos, elíptico-ovados, el ápice formando un ángulo recto, ligeramente oblicuos, 5-nervados, los nervios laterales bifurcados cerca de la base, 7 x 3.5 mm. Pétalos extendidos, cuneado-espatulados, truncado-redondeados, 3-nervados, los nervios laterales bifurcados cerca de la base, 7 x 3.5 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, entero, suborbicular, con una quilla roma al centro, escalooso, margen apical sinuoso, 4 x 3.5 mm. Columna recta, gruesa, 4.5 mm de largo. Clinandrium corto, margen eroso. Antera ovoide, aguda, bilocular. Polinios 2, triangulares, lateralmente comprimidos; caudículas 2, laminares, liguladas, subagudas, ligeramente más largas que los polinios; viscidio semilíquido, pequeño. Rostelo hendido. Nectario y cápsula no vistos.

Epiphytic, scandent herb, the new stem produced from a middle internode of the previous stem. Roots fleshy, thin, from the basal internodes of each stem. Stems erect, arcuate to straight, laterally compressed, partly covered by 1-3 non-foliaceous sheaths. Leaves 2-5, distributed along the apical 1/4 of the stem; sheath tubular; blade elliptic, acute. Inflorescence terminal, from the mature stem, flowers only once, rachis flexuous, ancipitous, each node with a conduplicate, triangular, acute bract. Flowers numerous, simultaneous, probably non-resupinate, sepals and petals tan-chocolate, lip white. Dorsal sepal spreading, elliptic, square angled, 5-veined. Lateral sepals elliptic-ovate, square angled, slightly oblique, 5-veined, the lateral veins bifurcate near the base. Petals spreading, cuneate-spatulate, truncate-rounded, 3-veined, the lateral veins bifurcate near the base. Lip united to the column, entire, suborbicular, with a low keel running down the middle, scalloose, apical margin sinuate. Column straight, thick. Clinandrium short, margin erose. Anther ovoid, acute, 2-celled. Pollinia 2, triangular, laterally compressed; caudicles 2, laminar, ligulate, subacute, longer than the pollinia; viscidium semiliquid, small. Rostellum slit.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the type. Epiphyte, in cloud forest at about 1500-1900 m altitude. Flowering in July and August.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum dwyeri* belongs to the "Neowilliamsia" group within *Epidendrum*, which is recognizable by the ancipitous rachis with conduplicate, acute bracts, and the laminar, lorate caudicles with either 2 or 4 pollinia. The suborbicular lip with sinuate apical margin and the spatulate, truncate-rounded petals easily identify this species. The habit is somewhat similar to *E. wercklei* Schltr., but this species has spotted flowers and a deeply fimbriate lip.

NOTE: Both Garay (1977) and Dressler (1981) recognized the genus *Neowilliamsia* as a segregate from *Epidendrum*, though each included different species in it, depending on the number of pollinia. If the genus *Epidendrum* were to be split up into some 50 genera or more, *Neowilliamsia* would stand, but then *E. dwyeri*, *E. anoglossum* Schltr. and *E. cymbiglossum* Hágsater would have to be added to the species included in Dressler's concept. It is curious that *E. anoglossum*, by far the most common of the species of this group, was not included by either Garay or Dressler in *Neowilliamsia*. The number of pollinia is an easy character to see, but in this case an unreliable one to separate species into natural groups or genera.



CONSERVATION STATUS: Unknown.

ETYMOLOGY: Named after Dr. John D. Dwyer, Curator Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden, specialist in Central American Rubiaceae, who collected the type specimen.

REFERENCES: Dressler, R.L. 1981. El género *Neowilliamsia* Garay. *Orquidea (Méx.)* 8(1): 27-36; Garay, L.A. 1977. The subtribe Epidanthinae L.O. Wms. *Orchid Digest* 41(1): 19-22.

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