



EPIDENDRUM ELEPHANTINUM Hágsater
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

EPIDENDRUM ELEPHANTINUM Hágsater, *sp. nov.*

Type: PANAMÁ: Darién: Parque Nacional del Darién W slope of Cerro Mali, on ridge between N & S branches of Río Púculo; ca. 18 km E of Púculo, 8°04'N 77°16'W, 1000-1200 m, 22 October 1987, *B. Hammel, G. de Nevers, H. Cuadros & H. Herrera 16421*. Holotype: MO! (Illustration voucher).

Epidendro pubifloro C. Schweinf. simile sed foliis longis et anguste lanceolatis, floribus minoribus, petalis angustioribus linearibus differens.

Hierba epífita, de más de 53 cm de altura. **Raíces** no vistas. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, rectos, teretes, ligeramente engrosados hacia la parte media, de más de 20 x 0.5-0.8 cm. **Hojas** por lo menos 5, distribuidas hacia la mitad apical del tallo, alternas, articuladas, subcoriáceas; vaina tubular, finamente estriada en seco, 2.5-5.0 x 0.5-0.8 cm; lámina angostamente lanceolada, ápice desigualmente bilobado, lisa, margen entero, 16-21.5 x 1.2-1.4 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, paniculada, grande, suberecta, 36 cm de alto; provista de 10 racimos multifloros, ligeramente arqueados hacia arriba, 13.5-22 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, recto, terete, grueso, no ornamentado, desprovisto de brácteas, 3 cm de largo; raquis terete, recto, gradualmente más delgado hacia el ápice, ligeramente ornamentado con tricomas submoniliformes, 33 cm de largo. **Flores** ca. 250, 20-40 por racimo, resupinadas, simultáneas, color crema, sin datos de fragancia. **Brácteas florales** mucho más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, agudas, 1 mm de largo. **Ovario** terete, delgado, ligeramente inflado justo detrás del perianto, profusamente ornamentado con tricomas moniliformes, 5-7 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, oblanceolados, 3-nervados, cóncavos en el ápice, subagudos, margen entero, membranáceos, profusamente ornamentados en la parte dorsal con tricomas moniliformes, 5.0-6.6 x 1.3-2.1 mm; el **dorsal** cuculado, los **laterales** subparalelos con respecto a la columna, falcados. **Pétalos** descendentes con respecto a la columna, libres, lineares, ligeramente ensanchados en el ápice, obtusos, 1-nervados, margen entero, 5.0-6.4 x 0.6-0.7 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, base cordada, 4.0 x 4.3 mm; bicalloso, los callos prominentes, láminares, alargados hasta la base del lóbulo medio; disco provisto de carina central corta, baja, gruesa, intercallosa, truncada en el ápice; lóbulos laterales oblicuamente dolabriformes, margen irregular, escasamente crenado, 1.7 x 2.7 mm; lóbulo medio campaniforme, truncado en el ápice, los lados revolutos y todo arqueado hacia arriba en posición natural de manera que se asemeja a la trompa de un elefante, 2 x 1.8 mm. **Columna** corta, la mitad basal fuertemente arqueada, el ápice abultado por el clinandrio, terminada en un par de dientes laterales, 5 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** prominente, abultado, dorsalmente corto, margen con dos o tres senos profundos. **Antera** ovoide, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, ovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, con la cara interna de cada par algo plana; caudículas suaves y granuladas, cortas. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** de ¼ del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** corto, apenas penetrando el ovario, no inflado, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic herb. **Stems** simple, cane-like, terete, slightly thickened towards the middle. **Leaves** at least 5, distributed towards the apical half of the stem, alternate, articulate, subcoriaceous; sheath tubular, minutely striated when dry; blade narrowly lanceolate, apex unequally bilobed, smooth, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, a large panicle, suberect, provided with 10 many-flowered, branches, these arched upwards; peduncle short, straight, terete, thick, smooth, without bracts; rachis terete, gradually thinner towards the apex, scarcely ornamented with moniliform trichomes. **Flowers** about 250, 20-40 per raceme, resupinate, simultaneous, cream-colored. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, triangular, acute. **Ovary** terete, thin, slightly inflated just behind the perianth, profusely ornamented with moniliform trichomes, 5-7 mm long. **Sepals** partly spreading, free, oblanceolate, 3-veined, concave towards the apex, subacute, margin entire, membranaceous, profusely ornamented dorsally with moniliform trichomes; the **dorsal** sepal cucullate, the **laterals** subparallel to the column, falcate. **Petals** descending, free, linear, somewhat widened towards the apex, obtuse, 1-veined, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, base cordate; bicallose, the calli prominent, laminar, elongate to reach the base of the midlobe, disc provided with a central, short, low, thick keel in between the calli, truncate at the apex; lateral lobes obliquely dolabriform, margin irregular, scarcely crenate; midlobe bell-shaped, the apex truncate, the sides revolute and the whole upturned in natural position so as to appear like the snout of an elephant. **Column** short, arching at the base, the apex with the clinandrium hood prominently humped. **Clinandrium hood** prominent, upturned, short, margin with a couple of deep slits. **Anther** obovoid, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, the inside face of each pair somewhat flat, caudicles soft and granulose, short. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** short, barely penetrating the ovary, thin, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the type, on the upper western slopes of the Serranía del Darién, near the Panamanian-Colombian border, at around 1000-1200 m altitude. Flowering in October.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum elephantinum* belongs to the Amblostomioides Group which is characterized by the caespitose habit, the thinly fusiform stems with narrow, apically bilobed, subcoriaceous leaves distributed along the apical half of the stems, an often large, apical, erect, paniculate inflorescence, the flowers greenish-yellow to white, the ovary and the sepals usually dorsally pubescent, and the lip 3-lobed. The species is recognized by the strongly pubescent ovaries and sepals (dorsally), the strongly arched column, with the humped clinandrium hood, the small flowers (sepals 5.0-6.6 mm) and the bell-shaped midlobe with the lateral margins revolute and the whole upturned so as to look like an elephant's trunk. It closely resembles *Epidendrum pubiflorum* from the Amazonian slope in Peru, which has oblong, apically rounded, bilobed leaves, larger flowers (sepals 9-11 mm), and the petals 2 mm wide. *Epidendrum caurense* Carnevali & G. Romero has sepals 7 mm long, pale yellow-green flowers, a straight column, and an oblong midlobe. *Epidendrum lanipes* Lindl. has

10-12 mm long sepals, white, strongly fragrant flowers, a straight column, and large, sturdy stems with leaves 17-25 mm wide. *Epidendrum purum* Lindl. has glabrous ovaries and sepals, sepals 6-7 mm long and an arched column. *Epidendrum hartii* Rolfe has glabrous ovaries and sepals which are 7-8 mm long, and a straight column.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient. The type locality is within the Parque Nacional del Darién.

ETYMOLOGY: An Elephant, in reference to the appearance of the lip: the large lateral lobes hanging down resemble the large ears and the midlobe upturned with the lateral margins revolute, like the trunk of an Elephant.



Author: E. Hágsater

Illustrator: M. López R.

Editors: E. Hágsater & L. Sánchez S.

Herbario AMO Apartado Postal 53-123, 11320 México, D.F., MÉXICO

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