



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

EPIDENDRUM ELLEANTHODICERAS Hágsater et E. Santiago, sp. nov.

Type: COLOMBIA: Huila, La Plata, 2600 m, 15 March 1939, *Kjell von Sneider* 2008. Holotype: S!
(Illustration voucher). Isotype: AMES!

Epidendro elleanthoide Schltr. simile sed floribus duplo majoribus, labello triangulari unicalloso, columna gracili arcuata utraque in dentem acutum terminanti discrepans.

Hierba epífita, erecta, ramificada, de más de 100 cm de alto. **Raíces** de la región inferior del tallo principal y ocasionalmente escasas en la base de algunas ramificaciones, delgadas, carnosas, blancas, 0.6-1.8 mm de grosor. **Tallos** ramificados, teretes, delgados, el principal de más de 42 x 0.27-0.40 cm, las ramificaciones, de varios órdenes, progresivamente más cortas, 6-29 x 0.16-0.23 cm. **Hojas** del tallo principal no vistas, 2-7 en las ramas, distribuidas hacia la zona media apical, erectas, dísticas, gramíneas; vaina tubular, finamente estriada y verrugosa, 1.3-3.5 x 1.6-4.0 mm; lámina linear lanceolada, ápice agudo, margen diminutamente crenado, con una quilla dorsal baja; 1.6-8.2 x 0.3-0.5 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, paniculada, erecta, 2-4.8 cm de largo; pedúnculo muy corto, terete, delgado, provisto en el ápice de una bráctea semejante a las florales, triangular, acuminada, 3-9 mm de largo; raquis filiforme, recto, 1.3-3.5 mm de largo. **Brácteas florales** más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, acuminadas, uninervadas, 2-4 mm de largo. **Flores** 3-5 por racimo, simultáneas, dísticas, sin datos de color ni fragancia. **Ovario** corto, terete, delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado, 4-7 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, angostamente elíptico oblanceolados, agudos, 3-nervados, margen entero, membranáceos, 10 x 2.2-2.8 mm; los **laterales** oblicuos, con una quilla dorsal prominente, aristados. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, libres, lineares, ápice agudo, 1-nervados, margen entero, 9.5 x 0.8 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, entero, triangular, base truncada, ápice agudo, margen entero, en posición natural abrazando parcialmente el ápice de la columna sin envolverla por completo, 6.3 x 6.3 mm; fuertemente pubescente en la base, papiloso hacia el ápice, monocalloso, el callo corto, laminar con el ápice redondeado, fuertemente pubescente. **Columna** larga, fuertemente arqueada, delgada, provista en el ápice de un par de dientes laterales prominentes y agudos, superficie ventral cortamente pubescente en la base, 6 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Antera** anchamente ovada, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovoides. **Rostelo** subapical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** penetrando cerca de la mitad del ovario, pubescente. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, erect, branching herb. **Roots** produced from the lower part of the main stem and occasionally from the base of the branches, thin. **Stems** erect, terete, thin, branching, the successive branches becoming shorter. **Leaves** 2-7 on the branches, distributed along the apical half of the stems, grassy; sheath tubular, minutely striated and verrucose; blade linear-lanceolate, acute, margin minutely crenate. **Inflorescence** apical, paniculate, erect; peduncle thin, short, rachis filiform, straight. **Floral bracts** shorter than the ovary, triangular, acuminate, 1-veined. **Flowers** 3-5 per raceme, simultaneous. **Ovary** short, terete, thin. **Sepals** partly spreading, narrowly elliptic-oblanceolate, acute, 3-veined, membranaceous, margin entire, the laterals oblique, with a prominent dorsal keel, aristate. **Petals** partly spreading, free, linear, acute, 1-veined, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, entire, triangular, base truncate, apex acute, margin entire, pubescent at the base, the apex papillose, the sides upturned and embracing the column without covering it; callus single, laminar, rounded, long-pubescent. **Column** strongly arching, thin, provided apically on each side with a prominent acute tooth; the basal ventral surface short-pubescent. **Clinandrium** hood reduced, entire. **Anther** wide, ovate, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid. **Rostellum** subapical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating about half the ovary, pubescent.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Endemic to southern Colombia, on the eastern slopes of the Cordillera Central, epiphytic in primeval forest at 2600 m altitude. Flowering in March.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum elleanthodiceras* belongs to the Elleanthoides Group characterized by the thin, branching stems, long, linear, grass-like leaves, filiform peduncle and rachis of the inflorescence. The new species is recognized by the relatively large flowers (for the group: sepals 10 mm long), acute teeth at the apex of the long, thin, arched, column, unlike any other species of the group, and triangular lip. *Epidendrum elleanthoides* has smaller flowers, the sepals 3.7-4.4 mm long, lip transversely ovate, and bicarinate callus. *Epidendrum guacamayense* Hágsater & Dodson, has sepals 7.0-7.5 mm long, the ecallose lip completely embracing and covering the column. *Epidendrum montispinchense* Hágsater & Dodson has a short, thick, straight column, forming a wide cavity with the lip, sepals are shorter, 6.4-6.8 mm long, the apical margin of the leaves is entire. This species appears to grow in the general area, represented by G. Lozano et al. 4264, collected above Finca Palmira, Mpio. La Argentina, COL, slide at AMO!

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek. The name *Elleanthus* is derived from Helle, the mythical daughter of the pharaoh Nofretete, and $\alpha\nu\theta\omicron\varsigma$ -flower, and $\delta\upsilon\omicron$ -two and $\kappa\epsilon\rho\alpha\varsigma$ -horn, thus two-horned elleanthoides, in reference to the two-horned column of this species which distinguishes it from other species of the Elleanthoides Group.



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ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 7. 2004. Plate 735