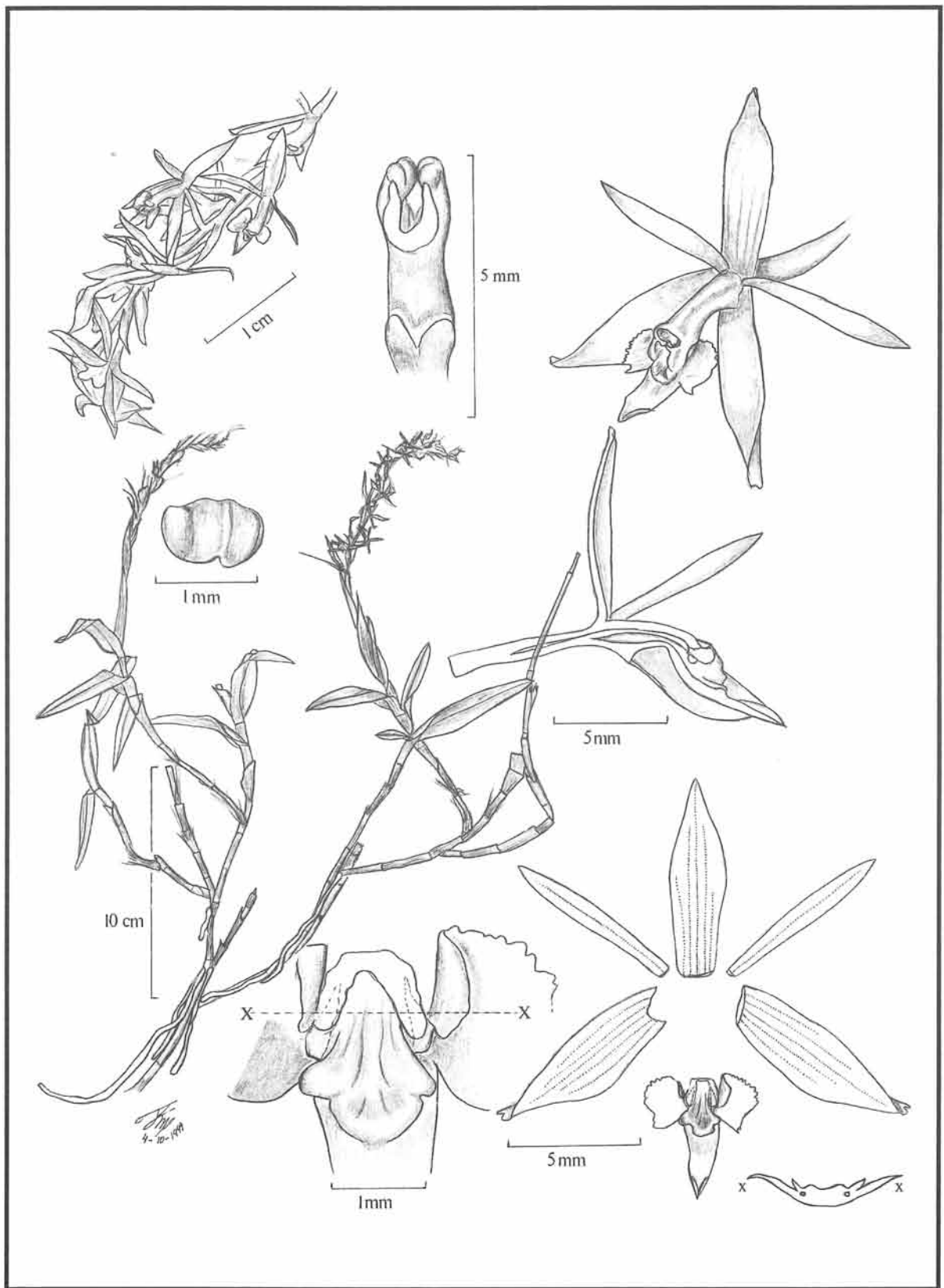




EPIDENDRUM GRACILIBRACTEATUM Hágsater & Dodson
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 3

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

Type: ECUADOR: Loja: Eastern side of pass Yangana to Valladolid, 2800-3000 m, **A. Hirtz, C. & J. Luer, & W. Flores 2299**. Holotype: RPSC! (illustration voucher). Isotype: Flower in spirit, AMO!

Epidendro pergracili Schltr. similare sed foliis brevioribus latioribusque, floribus minoribus, bracteis majoribus usque ovarii longitudine triplo longioribus recedit.

Hierba epífita, rastrera, de 30-35 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, delgadas, de 1 a 2 mm de grosor. **Tallos** tipo caña, rectos, teretes abajo, lateralmente comprimidos arriba, originados del 3-4 internodo del tallo anterior, 7-12 x 2.5 cm. **Hojas** 3-4, distribuidas en el tercio apical del tallo; vainas comprimidas, estriadas cuando secas, las inferiores no foliosas, de 1.1-1.8 cm de largo; lámina lanceolada, aguda, con una quilla dorsal prominente, desiguales, progresivamente más largas, 1.5-6 x 0.4-1.0 cm. **Espatas** 2, ancipitosas, agudas, ocultando el pedúnculo, 4.3-4.5 x 0.3-0.4 cm. **Inflorescencia** apical, del crecimiento maduro, racemosa, arqueada, de 12 cm de largo, pedúnculo de 5 cm de largo. **Brácteas florales** linear triangulares, acuminadas, más largas que el ovario, progresivamente más pequeñas hacia el ápice de la inflorescencia, 7-20 x 1 mm. **Ovario** terete, delgado, 6-7 mm de largo. **Flores** 25-30, pequeñas, el labelo orientado hacia el ápice del raquis, simultáneas, abriendo progresivamente desde la base, sépalos y pétalos rosado amarillos, labelo amarillo, antera roja. **Sépalos** angostamente elípticos, agudos, 5-nervados, el dorsal extendido, 7.5 x 2 mm; los laterales entreabiertos, ligeramente oblicuos, con una quilla dorsal prominente en el ápice, aristados, 7.5-7.8 x 2 mm. **Pétalos** extendidos, linear elípticos, agudos, 1-nervados, 7 x 0.9 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, cordado, 4.6 x 4.3 mm; lóbulos laterales semiovalados, al frente formando un ángulo casi recto con el margen externo eroso, el frontal entero 1.5 x 2.3 mm; lóbulo medio angostamente triangular, agudo, los márgenes apicales engrosados, 2.8 x 1.2 mm; callo formando por una plataforma trilobulada, ligeramente estriado; con dos pequeños lóbulos a ambos lados del callo los cuales son la entrada de un cuniculo cónico a cada lado del callo. **Columna** delgada, ligeramente arqueada, 3 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** pequeños, ocupando 1/4 de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** poco profundo, llegando hasta el perianto, ligeramente ensanchado hacia la parte interior, no ornamentado. **Antera** reniforme, con una quilla baja al frente, 4 locular. **Polinios** 4. **Cápsula** no vista.

Repent, epiphytic herb. Roots few, fleshy, at the base of each stem. Stems terete below, laterally compressed above, produced from the 3-4th internode, near the middle of the previous stem. Leaves 4, distributed along the apical third of the stem, lanceolate, acute, unequal, progressively larger. Spathes 2, ancipitose, acute, covering the peduncle. Inflorescence apical, from the mature growth, racemose, arching. Floral bracts, linear-triangular, acuminate, from much longer than to about as long as the ovary. Ovary terete, thin. Flowers 25-30, small, the lip oriented towards the apex of the rachis, simultaneous, opening from the base of the inflorescence, sepals and petals pinkish yellow, lip yellow, anther red. Sepals spreading, narrowly elliptic, acute, 5-veined, the laterals aristate. Petals spreading, linear-elliptic, acute, 1-veined. Lip united to the column, 3-lobed, cordate, the callus a 3-lobed platform, somewhat striated, with a cuniculus on each side; lateral lobes semiovate, forming a subrectangular angle in front, the outer margin erose, the front margin entire, apical lobe triangular, acute, the apical margins thickened. Column thin, slightly arched. Clinandrium reduced, entire. Nectary penetrating as far as the perianth, unornamented. Pollinia 4.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

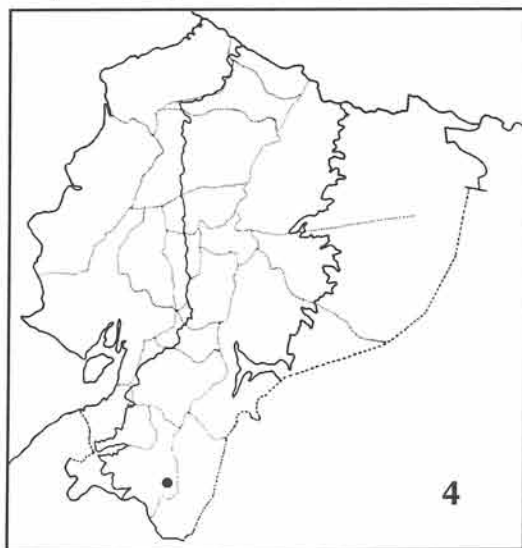
RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum gracilibracteatum* belongs to the alpicolum group, pergracile subgroup, and is distinguished by the repent habit, simultaneous flowers with large, prominent floral bracts, lateral lobes of the lip semiovate, forming a subrectangular angle in front, the outer margin erose, the front margin entire, apical lobe triangular, acute, and the apical margins thickened. *Epidendrum pergracile* has longer leaves, larger flowers, a more elongate inflorescence, and the floral bracts only up to slightly longer than the ovary. *Epidendrum rhodoides* Hágsater & Dodson has a lax-flowered inflorescence, the midlobe of the lip subquadrate; the petals are 5-veined, about as wide as the dorsal sepal and about 10 mm long, floral bracts shorter than the ovary.

Epidendrum vidal-senegei Hágsater & Dodson has larger flowers, the sepals 13-16 mm long, and the petals linear, half as wide as the sepals, and floral bracts about as long as the ovary.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: ECUADOR: in the mountains around Loja, at around 2800-3000 m altitude. Flowering in June.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *gracile*, graceful and *bractea*, bract, in reference to the large floral bracts which distinguish this species.



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