

EPIDENDRUM GRAYI Hágsater & Dodson
Text on the reverse side

EPIDENDRUM GRAYI Hágsater et Dodson, sp. nov.

Holotype: ECUADOR: Esmeraldas: km 12-15, Lita to Alto Tambo, on boulders in river, 800 m, February 1987, A. Hirtz 3289, RPSC! (illustration voucher.) Isotype: (flowers in liquid) AMO!

Epidendro pilcuensi Hágsater & Dodson simile, sed differt statura plantarum multo minore, foliis lineari-lanceolatis, symmetricis, marginibus revolutis, integris, caulibus ramificantibus, labello glabro.

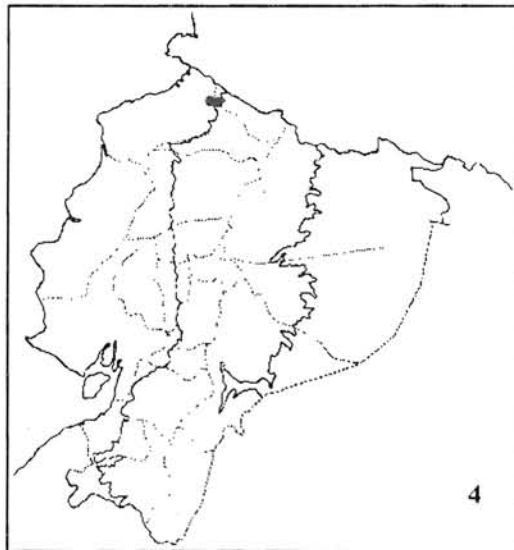
Hierba litófito, cespitosa, ca. 45 cm de alto. Raíces carnosas, de la base del tallo principal, 2.5-3 mm de grosor. Tallos erectos, teretes, ramificados cuando maduros cerca del ápice, tipo caña, ca. 18 x 0.2-0.3 mm. Hojas distribuidas a lo largo del tallo; vaina tubular, rugosa, 1.1-2.3 cm de largo; lámina linear-lanceolada, simétrica, aguda, márgenes enteros, revolutos, 4-6.3 x 0.4-0.6 cm. Inflorescencia terminal, del tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, paniculada, erecta, 9 cm de largo, sin espata, sin bráctea basal, pero con una bráctea en el nudo inferior. Brácteas florales pequeñas, mucho más cortas que el ovario, extendidas, ovado-trianguulares, agudas, 2.5-4 mm de largo. Ovario delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado, 5 mm de largo. Flores ca. 20, no resupinadas, sucesivas, poco carnosas, color anaranjado pálido. Sépalo dorsal entreabierto, angostamente obovado-elíptico, obtuso, poco carnosos, glabro, 3-nervado, 4.5 x 1.5 mm. Sépalos laterales entreabiertos, ovados, oblicuos, obtusos, glabros, sin quilla dorsal, poco carnosos, 3-nervados, 4.5 x 2 mm. Pétalos entreabiertos, linear-oblancoleolados, agudos, membranáceos, dorsalmente sulcados, uninervados, con un nervio secundario, 4 x 1 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, trilobado, carnoso, bicalloso, sin quillas, sulcado dorsalmente, 3 x 4 mm; lóbulos laterales subcuadrados, oblicuos, en posición natural abrazando el ápice de la columna y generalmente cubriéndola en la mayor parte, al extenderse se rompen en la unión con el lóbulo medio; lóbulo medio triangular. Columna recta, deflexa en la base con respecto del ovario, gruesa, 2.5 mm de largo, ápice terminado en un diente en ángulo recto a cada lado. Clinandrio obsoleto, entero. Antera ovoide, aguda, carnosa, 4-locular. Polinios 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos; caudículas suaves y granuladas, algo más largas que los polinios. Rostelo subapical, hendido. Lóbulos laterales del estigma pequeños, de 1/3 del largo de la cavidad estigmática. Nectario muy poco profundo, sin llegar hasta el perianto, apenas penetrando 2/3 partes de la columna, ornamentado con pelos alargados frente a la cavidad estigmática, reclinados hacia el interior. Cápsula no vista.

Litophytic, caespitose herb. Roots fleshy, from the base of the main stem. Stems terete, reed-like, branching near the apex when mature. Leaves linear-lanceolate, acute, margin entire, revolute. Inflorescence terminal, from the mature stem, flowers only once, paniculate, erect, without spathe. Floral bracts much shorter than ovary, spreading, ovate-triangular, acute. Flowers ca. 20, non-resupinate, successive, somewhat fleshy, pale orange. Ovary thin, unornamented. Sepals partly open, somewhat fleshy, obtuse, 3-veined, the dorsal obovate-elliptic, the laterals obliquely ovate. Petals partly open, linear-oblancoleolate, acute, membranaceous, 1-veined with a secondary vein. Lip united to the column, 3-lobed, bicallose, without keels, fleshy; lateral lobes subquadrate, oblique, in natural position embracing the column; midlobe triangular. Column short, straight, thick, deflexed at the base, with a tooth at each side of the apex. Anther ovate, acute, 4-celled. Pollinia 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, caudicles soft and granulose, somewhat longer than the pollinia. Rostellum subapical, slit. Lateral stigma lobes small, about 1/3 of the length of the stigmatic cavity. Nectary shallow, without reaching the perianth, with long hairs sloping inwards in front of the stigmatic cavity.

OTHER SPECIMENS: ECUADOR: Esmeraldas: Dodson et al. 18724, RPSC! van der Werff et al. 1999, MO!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the area of Lita, Province of Esmeraldas, Ecuador. Lithophytic on large boulders in small rivers, 500-800 m altitude, in company of *Phragmipedium hirtzii* Dodson. Flowering throughout the year.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum grayi* is recognized by the slender, branching stems, very narrow leaves with the margins revolute, paniculate inflorescence, and successive, small flowers with 3-lobed lip and nectary profusely pilose in the surface opposite to the stigmatic cavity. The flowers are somewhat similar to those of *E. pilcuense* Hágsater & Dodson, which is distinguished by the much larger plants, unbranched stems, oblique leaves at least twice larger in linear measurements and sparsely dentate along the margins, and the papillose-pilose lateral lobes of the lip.



CONSERVATION STATUS: Not threatened. Presently safe because it is found in the Aw'a Natural Reserve. However, if the status of the reserve is modified, the species would be potentially endangered.

ETYMOLOGY: Dedicated to Dr. Bruce Gray, Australian expert in Lauraceae and one of the most selective orchid collectors who have visited Ecuador, who collected this species for the Río Palenque Science Center.

Authors: E. Hágsater & C.H. Dodson

Illustrator: R. Jiménez

Editors: E. Hágsater & G. A. Salazar

Herbario de la Asociación Mexicana de Orquideología, A.C.

Plate 137

Apartado Postal 53-123, 11320 México, D.F., MEXICO

ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 2. 1993