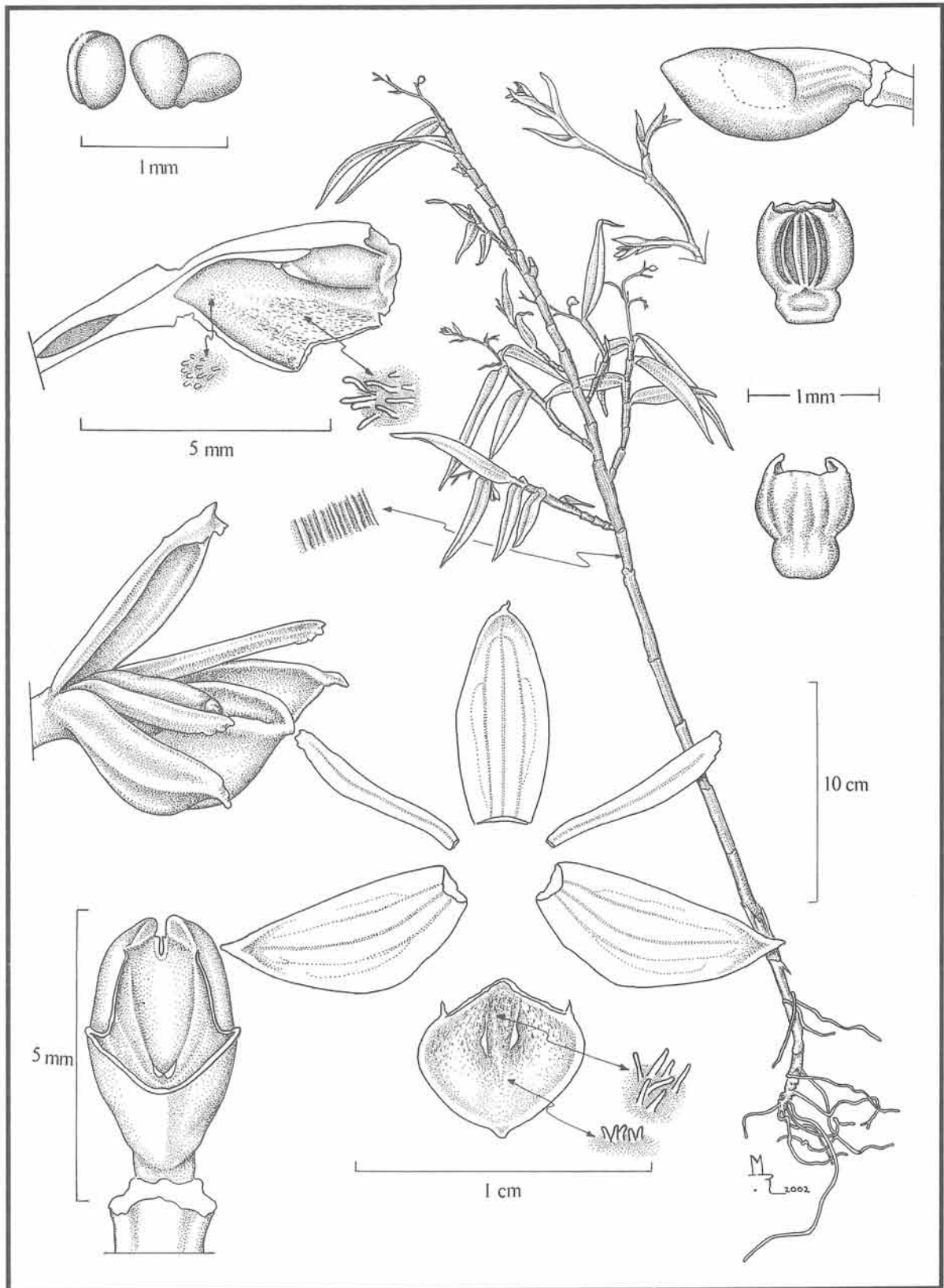




EPIDENDRUM GUARAMACALENSE Hágsater
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

EPIDENDRUM GUARAMACALENSE Hágsater, *sp. nov.*

Type: VENEZUELA: Trujillo; Boconó; Páramo de Guaramacal, 20 km al E de Boconó, 9° 14' N 70° 11' W, 2800-3000 m, 26 July 1984, *Gerardo Aymard, Francisco Ortega & Robbins Morán 2930*. Holotype: NY! (Illustration voucher). Isotype: PORT.

Epidendro elleanthoide Schltr. simile sed foliis latioribus, floribus majoribus, labello transverse ovato integro, lobulum apicalem triangularem non formanti et anthera pandurata distinguibile.

Hierba terrestre, subcespitosa, erecta, ramificada, 52 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, delgadas, blancas, 1-1.4 mm de grosor. **Tallos** teretes, producido de unos 5 cm de la base del tallo anterior, ramificados principalmente en la zona media apical, el principal 52 x 0.2-0.45 cm, las ramas cortas a su vez ramificadas, 4.5-10.5 x 0.16-0.3 cm. **Hojas** en el tallo principal caedizas, distribuidas a todo lo largo del mismo, alternas, semejantes en cuanto a forma y tamaño a las de las ramas, en las ramificaciones distribuidas en la mitad apical; vaina tubular, fibrosa con el tiempo, estriada y finamente rugosa, escasamente verrugosa, hasta 3.2 cm de largo; lámina lanceolada, ápice acuminado, carinada dorsalmente, margen entero, 23-74 x 5-8 mm. **Bráctea** espatácea ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, del tallo principal y de las ramificaciones, florece una sola vez, paniculada, arqueada, hasta 3.7 cm de largo; formada por 2-3 racimos producidos de la primera bráctea floral del racimo anterior; pedúnculo terete, muy delgado, filiforme hacia la base, desprovisto de brácteas, 12 x 0.15-0.6 mm. **Brácteas florales** más largas que el ovario, triangulares, acuminadas, 4-7 mm de largo, la primera siendo la más grande. **Flores** hasta 12, generalmente 3 por racimo, sucesivas, se desarrolla una flor a la vez; resupinadas; de color "amarillo", sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** corto, terete, delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado, 4-5 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, elípticos, obtusos, diminutamente apiculados, 3-nervados, las nervaduras laterales ramificadas, pareciendo 5-nervados, margen entero; el dorsal 7.5 x 3 mm; los laterales oblicuos, 8.5 x 3.5 mm. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, libres, lineares, obtusos, 1-nervados, margen en la zona apical eroso, 6.6 x 1 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, entero, transversalmente ovado al extenderse, brevemente apiculado, carnosos, en forma de copa, abrazando parcialmente a la columna en posición natural, sin traslaparse por encima, 5 x 5.6 mm; pubescente, bicalloso, los callos basales, pequeños y delgados. **Columna** corta, gruesa, ligeramente arqueada, 4.6 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Antera** pandurada, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovoides. **Rostelo** subapical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** cortos de ¼ del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** sin traspasar el perianto, amplio, pubescente. **Cápsula** no vista.

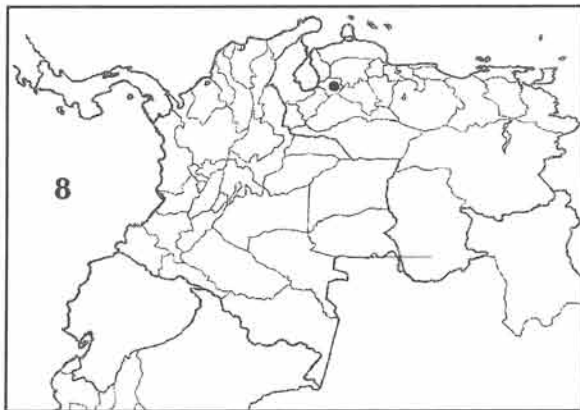
Terrestrial, subcaespitose, erect, branching **herb**. **Roots** basal, thin. **Stem** arising near the base of the previous stem, branching above the middle, branches short, and themselves branching. **Leaves** distributed throughout the main stem and along the upper half of the branches; sheath finely striated, somewhat rugose and sparsely verrucose; blade lanceolate, acuminate, dorsally carinate, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, from the main stem and branches, flowering only once, paniculate, arching; formed by 2-3 racemes, each new raceme produced from the first floral bract of the previous raceme, peduncle terete, very thin, filiform towards the base. **Floral bracts** longer than the ovary, triangular, acuminate. **Flowers** generally 3 per raceme, successive, one developing at a time, resupinate, "yellow". **Sepals** partly spreading, elliptic, obtuse, minutely apiculate, 3-veined, the lateral veins branching so as to appear 5-veined, margin entire; the laterals oblique. **Petals** partly spreading, free, linear, obtuse, 1-veined, the apical margin erose. **Lip** united to the column, transversely ovate when spread, short-apiculate, cup-shaped, embracing the lip without overlapping; pubescent, bicallose, the calli small, narrow. **Column** short, thick, slightly arching. **Clinandrium** hood reduced, entire. **Anther** pandurate, 4 celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** not penetrating the ovary, wide, pubescent.

NOTE: The plant architecture, appears to correspond to a relatively young plant, flowering for the first time. Older plants could have a more straggling habit, with longer, thinner branches as are typical of the *Elleanthoides* Group.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum guaramacalense* belongs to the *Elleanthoides* Group which is characterized by the branching habit, thin stems, the grassy leaves and the arching inflorescence with short hair-like peduncles and few, successive flowers. The species is recognized by the relatively wide and long leaves (up to 74 x 8 mm), relatively large flowers (for the group, sepals 7.5-8.5 mm long), the entire, transversely wide, ovate lip, pubescent with two small, narrow calli, and the pandurate anther. *Epidendrum elleanthoides* Schltr. has narrower leaves (to 4 mm), smaller flowers (sepals 3-4 mm long) and the lip is shallowly 3-lobed, with the apical lobe triangular and nearly as large as the lateral lobes. *Epidendrum guacamayense* Hágsater & Dodson has leaves up to 6 mm wide, sepals 7.5 mm long, and the lip embracing the column, overlapping and completely hiding it. *Epidendrum bryophilum* Hágsater & Dodson has 3 mm wide leaves with the apical margin sinuous-dentate, 6 mm long sepals, and up to 13 flowers per raceme. *Epidendrum piconeblinaense* Hágsater has smaller leaves (16-46 x 2-5 mm), a rhombic, pubescent lip, and narrower, oblong petals; it is found in southern Venezuela near the border with Brazil.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the type, in Andean páramo in northwestern Venezuela, at around 2800-3000 m altitude. Flowering in July.



CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient. The type was collected in or near the Guaramacal National Park.

ETYMOLOGY: In reference to the locality where the type was collected, the Páramo de Guaramacal.

Authors: E. Hágsater & E. Santiago

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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