



EPIDENDRUM HAMERI Hagsater & L. Sánchez

Text on the reverse side

EPIDENDRUM HAMERI Hágsater et L. Sánchez, sp. nov.

Holotype: NICARAGUA: Dept. Granada, W slope of Volcán Mombacho, road and trail above Finca Santa Ana, reservoir somewhat above Plan de las Flores, ca. 11°49'-50'N, 85°58'W, elev. ca. 950-1150 m, 1 October 1977, W. D. Stevens & B. A. Krukoff 4358, SEL! (illustration voucher.)

Epidendrum firmo Rchb. f. simile, sed differt foliis superioribus imbricatis, ellipticis vel ovatis, floribus minoribus, labello duobus callis angustis rotundatis, et lobo mediano emarginato.

Hierba epífita, cespitosa, 18-23 cm de alto incluyendo la inflorescencia. Raíces basales, carnosas, 0.5-0.7 mm de grosor. Tallo sencillo, tipo caña, algo comprimido lateralmente, recto, 13-19 cm de largo. Hojas 4-9, equidistantes a lo largo del tallo, las superiores imbricadas; vaina lateralmente comprimida, lisa, no ornamentada, 1-1.5 cm de largo; lámina elíptica en las hojas inferiores a ovada en las hojas superiores, ápice asimétricamente bilobado, verde, lisa, no ornamentada, 1.5-4.5 x 0.8-1.8 cm. Inflorescencia terminal en el tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, sésil. Bráctea floral más corta que el ovario. Flores 1-2, resupinadas, simultáneas, color amarillo-verdoso muy pálido, translúcidas. Ovario terete, no ornamentado, 40-45 mm de largo. Sépalos obovados, redondeados, glabros, libres, subcoriáceos, márgenes enteros, revolutos, 5-nervados, 9 x 4 mm. Pétalos extendidos, linear-espatulados, márgenes enteros, extendidos, 1-nervados, 8.5 x 1 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, trilobado, bicalloso, los callos angostos, redondeados, 6 x 12 mm; lóbulos laterales dolabriformes, márgenes crenados; lóbulo medio dos veces más ancho que largo, emarginado, formando dos lóbulos redondeados. Columna arqueada en el tercio apical, delgada, 7.5 mm de largo. Clinandrio prominente, irregularmente dentado. Antera 4-locular. Polinios 4, subiguales, lateralmente comprimidos; caudículas suaves y granulosas; viscidio viscoso, translúcido. Rostelo apical, hendido. Nectario profundo, penetrando la mitad del ovario. Cápsula no vista.

Epiphytic, caespitose herb. Stems simple, reed-like, somewhat compressed laterally, straight. Leaves 4-9, the lower ones elliptic and spaced apart, the upper ones ovate and imbricating, apices obliquely bilobed. Inflorescence terminal, sessile, flowers only once. Flowers 1-2, resupinate, simultaneous, very pale yellow-green, translucent. Ovary terete. Sepals obovate, rounded, glabrous, free, subcoriaceous, margin entire, revolute, 5-nerved. Petals spreading, linear-spatulate, rounded, margin entire, spreading, 1-nerved. Lip united to the column, 3-lobed, bicallose, the calli narrow, rounded; lateral lobes dolabriform, crenate; midlobe twice as wide as long, emarginate, forming two rounded lobes. Column arcuate near the apex. Clinandrium prominent, irregularly dentate. Anther 4-celled. Pollinia 4, laterally compressed; caudicles soft and granular; viscidium viscous, translucent. Rostellum slit. Nectary deep, penetrating half the ovary.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Nicaragua, known only from the type. Epiphyte, in disturbed cloud forest below elfin forest at ca. 950-1150 m altitude. Flowering in October.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum hameri* is a member of the *E. difforme* Jacq. complex and is similar to *E. firmum* Rchb. f., but can be recognized by the imbricating upper leaves, 1-2 small flowers, and 3-lobed lip with dolabriform, crenate lateral lobes and short, emarginate midlobe forming two rounded lobules. *Epidendrum lagenocolumna* Hágsater, another similar species, has non imbricating upper leaves, 4-6 large flowers, semiorbicular lateral lobes, subquadangular midlobe, and column swollen at the base because of the nectary unusually broad but constricted and decurved above the middle.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Undetermined.

ETYMOLOGY: This species honors Fritz Hamer, orchid specialist from El Salvador who has published extensively on the orchids of El Salvador and Nicaragua. Mr. Hamer worked with the type specimen and prepared an illustration of it.



Author: E. Hágsater & L. Sánchez

Illustrator: R. Jiménez

Editors: E. Hágsater & G. A. Salazar

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

Plate 142

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

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