

EPIDENDRUM LUTHERI Hágsater
Text on the reverse side

EPIDENDRUM LUTHERI Hágsater, *sp. nov.*

Holotype: PANAMA: Chiriquí-Bocas del Toro: Cerro Colorado, above the Copper Mine, ca. 1600 m, June 1989, *Luther, Besse, Halton & Kress 1059*, SEL! Isotypes: AMES! AMO! (illustration voucher.) MO! US!

Epidendro bugabensi Hágsater simile, sed petalis ellipticis, labello quam latiore multo longiore, infra medium leviter contracto, floribus viridibus.

Hierba litófito, con crecimiento sucesivo lateral, ramificada. Raíces solo en la base de la planta. Tallos originados de un entrenudo intermedio del tallo anterior, 7-15 cm de largo, cubiertos en la mitad basal por vainas escariosas. Hojas 2-4, agrupadas hacia el ápice del tallo; vaina tubular, lateralmente comprimida y dilatada hacia el ápice, estriada al envejecer, 3 x 0.2-0.7 cm; lámina elíptico-lanceolada, diminutamente tridentada a aristada, subcoriácea, conduplicada en la base, 2-10 x 0.6-1.9 cm. Inflorescencia terminal, del tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, racemosa, arqueada, algo en zig-zag, laxa, más corta que las hojas; pedúnculo delgado, envuelto en la base por 2-3 brácteas conduplicadas, imbricadas, de 5-15 mm de largo. Brácteas florales ovadas, agudas, conduplicadas, plurinervadas, progresivamente más cortas, 14-25 x 6-10 mm. Flores 5-6, simultáneas, resupinadas, verdes. Ovario inflado ventralmente en la mitad apical, 10-15 mm de largo. Sépalo dorsal elíptico, agudo, márgenes algo revolutos, 5-nervado, 14-15 x 4 mm. Sépalos laterales lanceolado-elípticos, algo falcados, agudos, 5-nervados, los nervios laterales en ocasiones divididos cerca de la base, 14-15 x 4.5 mm. Pétalos elípticos, algo falcados, redondeados, extendidos, 3-nervados en la base, los nervios laterales divididos arriba, 13-14 x 4-4.5 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, entero, ovado, algo contraído en el tercio basal, aparentemente conduplicado en posición natural, bicalloso, base cordada, ápice redondeado, 11-13 x 8 mm. Columna corta, decurvada, 4 mm de largo. Clinandrio corto, eroso. Antera subreniforme, 4-locular, con un borde que rodea la parte frontal, terminada en dos puntas agudas, divergentes. Polinios 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, los interiores algo menores; caudículas aparentemente muy cortas. Rostelo no visto. Nectario profundo, penetrando la mitad del ovario. Capsula no vista.

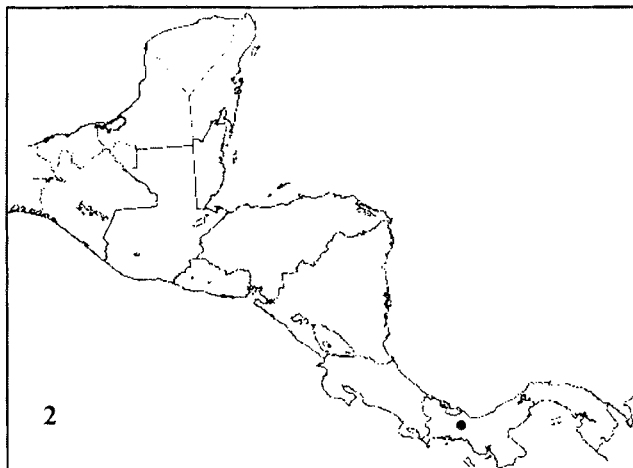
Lithophytic, branching herb with lateral, successive growth. Stems arising from an intermediate internode of the previous stem. Leaves 2-4, near the apex of the stem; sheaths laterally compressed and dilated towards the apex; blade elliptic-lanceolate, minutely 3-dentate to aristate, subcoriaceous, the base conduplicate. Inflorescence terminal, from the mature stem, flowers only once, shorter than the leaves, racemose, arcuate, somewhat zigzag, lax, provided at the base with 2-3 conduplicate, imbricating bracts. Floral bracts ovate, acute, conduplicate, many-veined. Flowers 5-6, simultaneous, resupinate, green. Ovary swollen ventrally above the middle. Dorsal sepal elliptic, acute, margins somewhat revolute, 5-veined. Lateral sepals lanceolate-elliptic, somewhat falcate, acute, 5-veined, the lateral veins divided near the base. Petals spreading, elliptic, slightly falcate, rounded, 3-veined at the base, the lateral veins branching above. Lip united to the column, entire, ovate, slightly constricted below the middle, apparently conduplicate in natural position, bicallous, base cordate, apex rounded. Column short, decurved. Clinandrium short, erose. Anther subreniform, ending in two divaricate points, with a rim surrounding the front, 4-celled. Pollinia 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, the inner pollinia slightly smaller; caudicles apparently very short. Nectary deep, penetrating half the ovary.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the type. Found in cloud forest at about 1600 m altitude. Flowering in June.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum lutheri* belongs to the *E. polychlamys* Schltr. group and can be identified by the lax inflorescence, the 5-veined, 14-15 long and 4 mm wide sepals, the elliptic petals, and the lip almost twice as long as wide. It is closely related to *E. bugabense* Hágsater, which has red flowers and the lip about as wide as long.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unknown.

ETYMOLOGY: The species is named in honor of Dr. Harry Luther, bromeliad specialist at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, who collected the type.



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