

EPIDENDRUM MICRORIGIDIFLORUM Hágsater

*EPIDENDRUM MICRORIGIDIFLORUM* Hágsater, *sp. nov.*

Type: PANAMA: Chiriquí: Valle de Fortuna, 1100-1200 m; 27 October 1999, *Dressler 6259*. Holotype: AMO! (Illustration voucher).

*Epidendro rigidifloro* Schltr. simile sed habitu vegetativo floribusque minoribus, labello late rhombeo, ad basem late cuneato, ad apicem manifeste apiculato, aurantiaco-viridulo, divergens.

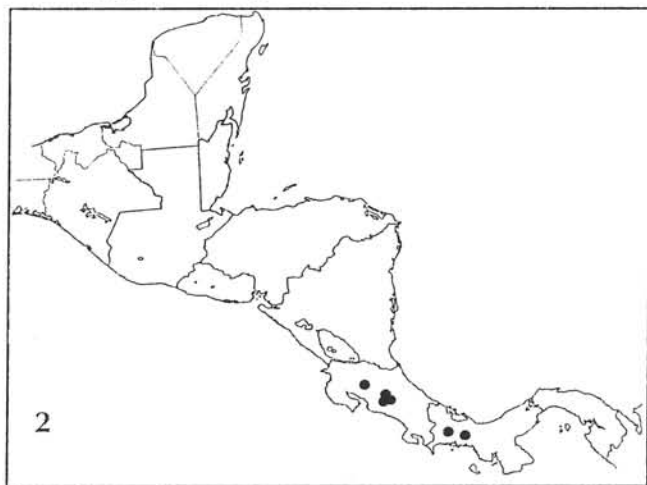
**Hierba** epífita, submonopodial, ramificada arriba, de más de 60-100 cm de alto. **Raíces** en el tallo principal no vistas, raramente escasas en algunas ramificaciones, carnosas, gruesas, blancas, 2.8 mm de grosor. **Tallos** ramificados subapicalmente, tipo caña, teretes, delgados, rectos, el principal de más de 40 x 0.3-0.46 cm; las ramificaciones (producidas de los entrenudos intermedios o apicales una ó dos ramificaciones), 11-29 x 0.2-0.42 cm. **Hojas** en el tallo principal no vistas; 4-7 en las ramificaciones, distribuidas en los 2/3 apicales del tallo, articuladas, alternas, desiguales, la basal y la apical más pequeñas; vaina tubular, finamente estriada, rugosa, 10-26 x 2-4.6 mm; lámina ovado lanceolada, acuminada, coriácea, margen entero, 1.6-7.5 x 0.6-1.5 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, erecta, florece una sola vez, 6-10 cm de largo; pedúnculo terete, delgado, corto, recto, 10-12 mm de largo; raquis recto. **Bráctea floral** del doble del largo del ovario, angostamente triangulares, agudas, abrazadoras, 4-9 mm de largo. **Flores** 8-16, simultáneas, no resupinadas, sépalos y pétalos amarillo verdoso o cremas, labelo anaranjado verdoso; sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** corto, terete, delgado, no inflado, liso, 4-5 mm de largo. **Sépalos** libres, extendidos, ovados, agudos, 3-nervados, las nervaduras laterales ramificadas desde la base, dando la apariencia de ser de 5 a 6 nervados, margen involuto y entero, 7.5-7.8 x 3-3.5 mm; los **laterales** ligeramente oblicuos, 5-nervados. **Pétalos** libres, extendidos, lineares, agudos, 1-nervados, margen entero, 6.8 x 1.2 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, entero, anchamente rómbico, diminutamente subpapiloso, anchamente cuneado en la base, prominentemente apiculado en el ápice, margen entero, 4.3 x 5.4 mm; bicalloso, los callos, incipientes, delgados, paralelos, muy cortos. **Columna** corta, gruesa, ligeramente arqueada hacia arriba, 4 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, margen entero. **Antera** subovoidea, 4-locular, con un canal central conspicuo. **Polinios** 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos. **Rostelo** subapical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** pequeños, de 1/5 del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** corto, sin penetrar el ovario, delgado, pubescente. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, tall, submonopodial herb, branching above. **Roots** basal and rarely scarce from the base of the branches, fleshy, thick, white. **Stems** branching subapically, cane-like, terete, thin, straight, the branches produced from the upper internodes. **Leaves** 4-7 distributed along the apical 2/3 of the branches, articulate, alternate, unequal, progressively larger, except for the apical one which is smaller; sheaths tubular, minutely striated and rugose; blade ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, coriaceous, margin entire. **Spathaceous bract** absent. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, erect, flowering only once; peduncle terete, thin, short, straight; rachis straight. **Floral bracts** twice as long as the ovary, narrowly triangular, acute. **Flowers** 8-16, simultaneous, non-resupinate, sepals and petals greenish yellow or cream, lip greenish orange. **Ovary** short, terete, thin, smooth. **Sepals** free, spreading, ovate, acute, 3-veined, the lateral veins branched from the base so as to appear 5-6-veined, margin involute and entire; the lateral slightly oblique, 5-veined. **Petals** free, spreading, linear, acute, 1-veined, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, entire, widely rhombic, subpapillose, base widely cuneate, apex prominently apiculate, margin entire. **Column** short, thick, slightly arching upwards. **Clinandrium-hood** short, margin entire. **Anther** subovoid, 4-celled, with a conspicuous central channel. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, laterally compressed. **Rostellum** subapical, slit. **Nectary** short, without penetrating the ovary, thin, pubescent.

**OTHER SPECIMENS:** COSTA RICA: **Alajuela:** Reserva Biológica Monteverde San Ramón, Río Peñas Blancas, 1000 m, 7 XI 1989, *Bello 1472*, MO! **Cartago:** Reserva de Tapantí, 25 IX 1984, *Dressler 50*, USJ! 6 km upstream from Tapantí, 1500-1800 m, 24 XI 1984, *Grayum 4552*, AMO! CR! SEL! Río Grande de Oroquí, región de Tapantí, 1250 m, 29 I 1983, *Hágsater 6981*, AMO! 8 km S of Tapantí, 1800 m, 20 II 1977, *Lent 4109*, CR! F! Reserva Nacional Tapantí, 1330-1660 m, 10 I 1985, *Mora 10*, USJ! PANAMA: **Chiriquí:** Vicinity of Cerro Colorado mine, above Chami, 1250 m, 25 I 1988, *McPherson 11998*, AMO!

**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Ranging from western Costa Rica to western Panama, at 1000-1800 m altitude. Flowering from September to January.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum microrigidiflorum* belongs to the *Macrostachyum* Group, *Aquaticum* Subgroup which is characterized by the monopodial stems, branching above, the apical, erect, distichous, secund inflorescence with non-resupinate, fleshy flowers, the lip entire, triangular to cordiform, with small calli and the nectary usually puberulose in front of the stigmatic cavity. The new species is recognized by the 60-100 cm high, subapically branching plants with relatively small leaves (1.6-7.5 x 0.6-1.5 cm), short inflorescence (6-10 cm), floral bracts (4-9 mm), with the flowers greenish yellow and the lip greenish orange, the sepals 7.5-7.8 mm long, and the lip widely rhombic. It is very similar and has been confused with *E. rigidiflorum* which is overall larger, the lanceolate leaves (17.5-19.8 x 1-2.7 cm), the inflorescence long, (15-23 cm) distichous and secund, the floral bracts (11-22 mm) and yellow, yellowish brown to greenish yellow, large, fragrant flowers (sepals 10 mm long), with the lip deeply cordate-triangular. Both have been confused with the South American *Epidendrum macrostachyum* Lindl. which has a racemose, cylindrical inflorescence, with similar flowers.



**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD. Data deficient.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek μικρός, small, and the Latin rigidus, and flos, flower, in reference to the small flowers and vegetative habit, compared to the sister larger species *Epidendrum rigidiflorum*.