

**Epidendrum mirabile** A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba robusta, *Epidendrum imbricatum* Lindl. repetens. Caulis foliorum vaginis arctis omnino obtectus. Folia disticha, oblonga vel oblongo-elliptica, in apice abrupte rotundata, patentia. Inflorescentiae terminales, perbreves, plerumque biflorae. Flores spectabiles, magni, purpurei. Sepala petalaeque oblonga, acuta. Petala elliptica, acuta. Labellum elliptico-ovatum, acutum. Columna perbrevis, crassa, superne sensim dilatata.

Plant tall and stout, over 40 cm. high (the basal portion not present). Stems straight or slightly arcuate, simple or rarely with a stout ascending branch, entirely concealed by leaf-sheaths, sometimes bearing at the nodes of the lower portion a few coarse fibrous roots, woody; internodes 2–3 cm. long, the uppermost ones abruptly much shorter. Leaf-sheaths finely dark-punctate, tightly clasping in the lower portion of the stem. Leaves numerous, distichous, oblong, oblong-lanceolate or elliptic-oblong, 6.5–10 cm. long, 1.15–2.4 cm. wide, the uppermost and especially the lowermost often much smaller, abruptly rounded with a minutely bilobed tip, clasping at the rounded base, widely spreading, coriaceous, the mid-nerve prominently sulcate above and sharply carinate beneath. Inflorescence terminal, contracted, a 2- or rarely 3-flowered raceme. Rachis very short, up to 2 cm. long, concealed by an erect foliaceous ancipitous sheath. Floral bracts large, clasping, surpassing the pedicellate ovary, about 3–4.5 cm. long, tubular-involute. Flowers large and showy; perianth segments rigid-nervose. Lateral sepals oblong, 3–3.65 cm. long, 6.5 to almost 8 mm. wide below the middle, acute, keeled on the outer surface, base slightly oblique. Dorsal sepal very similar. Petals narrowly elliptic, acute, 2.9–3.5 cm. long, 9.5–12.5 mm. wide. Labellum adnate to the column up to the clinandrium; lamina elliptic-ovate, 2.4–3 cm. long, 1.7–2.1 cm. wide in the middle, abruptly acute, with a dorsal apicule, more or less cordate at base, margins irregular. Disc at the very base with a minute trifurcate callus running onto the nerves, the central nerve much the most conspicuous throughout its length. Column very short and stout, 5.5–8 mm. high, upper margins irregular.

*Epidendrum mirabile* recalls *E. imbricatum* Lindl., *E. Boissierianum* Schltr. and *E. modestiflorum* Schltr., but is unique through its relatively gigantic flowers.

COSTA RICA, San Ignacio de Aserri, Anastasio Alfaro 180, September 12, 1925. 1150 meters altitude. "Flowers rose purple, lip white." (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 31332; DUPLICATE TYPE in U. S. Nat. Herb. Nos. 1208293, 1208294): Tablazo, C. H. Lankester 1220, October 1928. 5000–6000 feet altitude. The collector's notes specify that the vegetative parts are defective, the leafy stem (taken from a straggling plant of some fifty stems) being 12–15 inches long, the flowers whole-color, purplish lilac (Ridgway 37), a paler nearly white area at central base of lip, and column white. He adds that the specimen was "given to me in S. José by Mrs. Ortuño."