

3. *Epidendrum montis-narae* Pupulin & L. Sánchez, *sp. nova* FIG. 5.

TYPE: COSTA RICA. San José: Dota, eastern slopes and crest of Cerro Nara, 1050-1140 m, Premontane rain forest to Cloud forest, 15 Jan 1999, *F. Pupulin, D. Castelfranco & L. Spadari 1140* (holotype, USJ!; clonotype, AMO!).

*Epidendro hameri* Hágsater & L. Sánchez simile sed caulibus compressis, foliis superioribus non imbricatis, floribus majoribus, viridiflavus, sepalis, petalis et labello dissimilis.

*Plant* epiphytic, caespitose, 11-20 cm tall. *Stems* foliaceous, simple, laterally complanate, slightly fractiflex, 8-18 cm long, about 0.4 cm wide in diameter, covered by amplexicaul green sheaths, many-leaved. *Roots* basal, fibrous, flexuous, glabrous, produced at the base of the stem, about 1.8 mm in diameter. *Leaves* 4-8, alternate, distributed along the stem; blade elliptic to elliptic-ovate, irregularly bilobed at apex, coriaceous, somewhat erect, 2.4-3.7 cm long, 1.4-1.8 cm wide, articulated to the sheaths, persistent. *Inflorescence* apical, terminal from the mature growth, 5-7-flowered, subcorymbose, short raceme usually less than 1 cm long, concealed at the base by a large, cucullate, broadly ovate, green bract. *Flower bracts* much shorter than the ovary, triangular, inconspicuous, about 3 mm long. *Ovary* subclavate, terete, round in section, to 2.5-3 cm long. *Flowers* simultaneous, resupinate, greenish to yellowish green at anthesis, turning pale-golden bronze with age, fragrant at night, the scent fruity. *Sepals* subsimilar, spreading, free; oblanceolate-elliptic, acute, the margins revolute, the

dorsal 21 mm long, 6.5 mm wide; the laterals subfalcate, 23 mm long, 5.3 mm wide. *Petals* horizontal to slightly drooping, linear-ligulate, acute, margins revolute, 21.0 mm long, 2.1 mm wide. *Lip* with a long claw adnate to the column, the claw 7.7 mm long, the lamina 3-lobed, subreniform to transversely elliptic when spread, 11.2 mm long, 17.1 mm wide; lateral lobes larger than midlobe, reniform semiorbicular, entire; midlobe rounded, entire, forming 2-lobes, the lobes small, with a shallow sinus provided with a short apicule; disc with a pair of short, erect calli at the insertion of the column. *Column* straight to somewhat arcuate, stout, 12.5 mm long, the erose clinandrium projecting slightly beyond the apex of column, the rostellum slit slotted. *Pollinia* 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, on short, granular caudicles. *Anther cap* cucullate, subspherical, 4-celled.

ETYMOLOGY: named from the type locality along the slopes of Cerro Nara, in central Pacific Costa Rica.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Only known from Costa Rica, on the eastern slopes and crest of Cerro Nara and Rio Savegre area. Growing epiphytic in premontane rain forest to cloud forest, between 90 and 1100 m altitude.

PARATYPES: Quepos area. Savegre: Santo Domingo, along the banks of Río Savegre, 27 Nov. 1999, *F. Pupulin, D. Castelfranco, L. Spadari & J. Matei 1848* and 1849 (USJ!). Without specific locality, a confiscated plant flowered at Gaia Botanical Garden, *GBG-1353* (USJ!).

PHENOLOGY: flowering occurs at least in November.

*Epidendrum montis-narae* is a member of the *Epidendrum difforme* complex and can be recognized by laterally compressed stems, elliptic-ovate, suberect leaves, 5-7, greenish to yellowish-green flowers, oblanceolate-elliptic, acute sepals, linear-ligulate, acute petals, 3-lobed lip, subreniform to transversally elliptic when spread, semiorbicular, entire lateral lobes, midlobe forming two small lobules, with a shallow sinus, apiculate. It is a close relative to *Epidendrum hameri* Hágsater & L. Sánchez, from Pacific slopes of Volcán Mombacho in Nicaragua, but this has somewhat laterally compressed stems, imbricating upper leaves, 1-2 small, very pale yellow-green, translucent flowers, obovate, rounded sepals, linear-spatulate, rounded petals, dolabriform, crenate lateral lobes. Another similar species from Pacific slopes is *E. citrosimum* Hágsater, endemic to the semideciduous and deciduous forests of the Sierra Madre in Mexico, but this species has terete stems, bright green flowers, sepals and petals rounded, clinandrium obsolete.

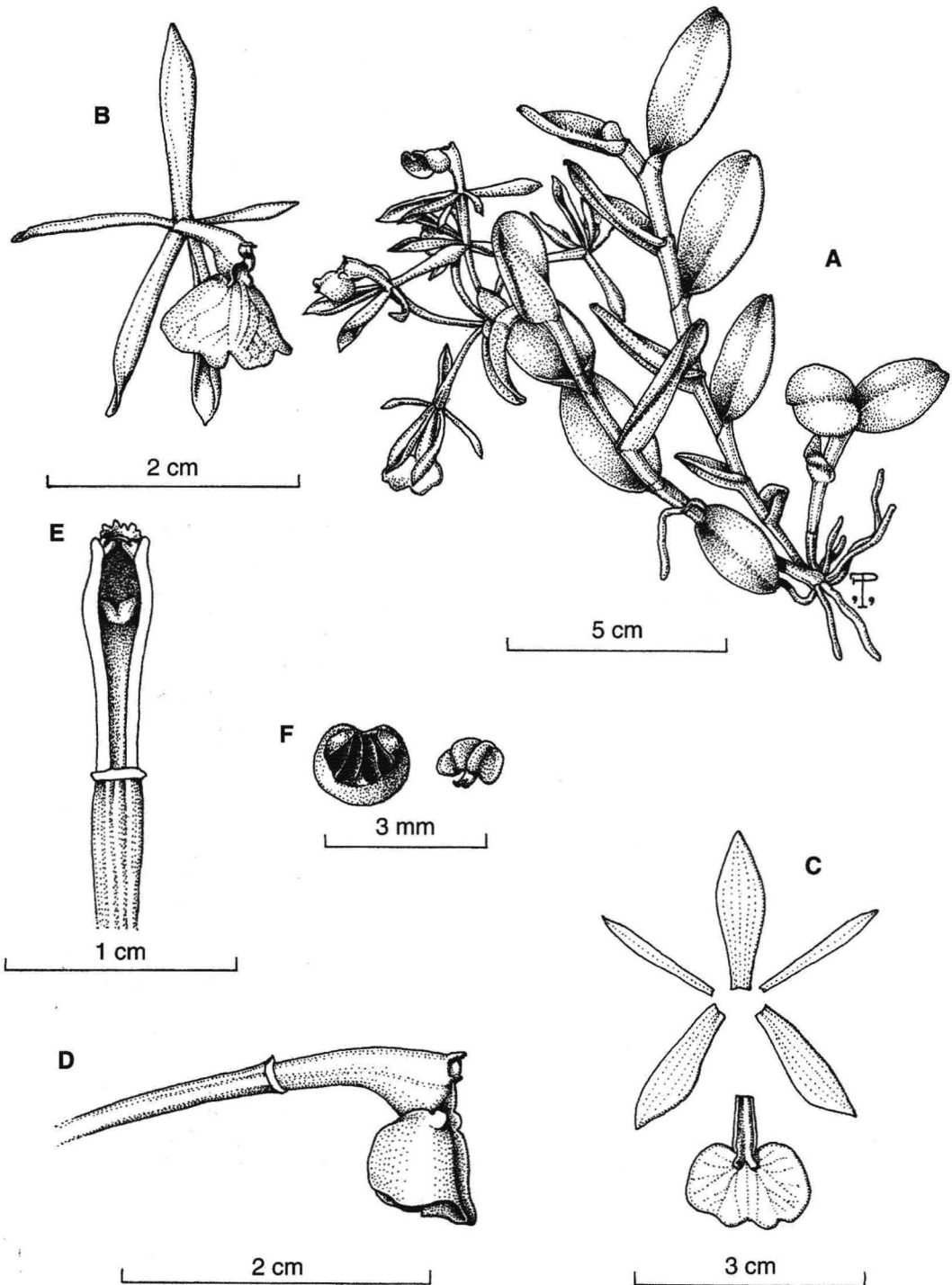


Figure 5. *Epidendrum montis-narae* Pupulin & L. Sánchez. A - Habit. B - Flower. C - Dissected perianth. D - Column and lip, lateral view. E - Column, ventral view. F - Operculum and pollinarium. ILLUSTRATION VOUCHER: F. Pupulin, D. Castelfranco & L. Spadari 1140 (USJ).