

EPIDENDRUM MORA-RETANAE Hágsater
Text on the reverse side

EPIDENDRUM MORA-RETANAE Hágsater, sp. nov.

Holotype: PANAMA: Chiriquí: Cuesta de Piedra-Finca El Milagro, 800-1000 m, prepared from cultivated material, 27 February 1984, *E. Hágsater* 6499 & *R. L. Dressler*, AMO! (illustration voucher.)

Epidendro acufiae Dressler simile, sed foliis subcoriaceis, non carnosis, bracteis approximatis bel partim imbricatis, 4-9 floribus eburneis, fragrantissimis.

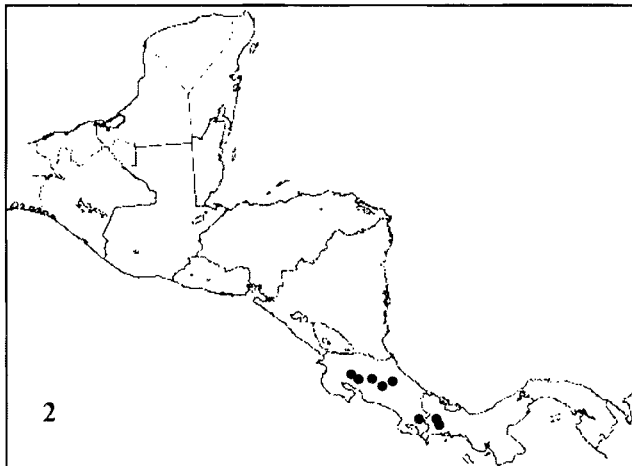
Hierba epífita, colgante, ramificada, 80-300 cm de largo. Raíces producidas solo de la base de la planta, carnosas, 1-2 mm de grosor. Tallos colgantes, ramificados, tipo caña, teretes, rectos, 5-8 mm de grosor, el principal hasta 300 x 0.6-1 cm, con hojas de 10-17 x 2-2.5 cm, las ramas primarias hasta 80 x 0.5-0.9 cm, con hojas de 5-17 x 1.6-2.5 cm, las ramas florales 7-11 x 0.4-0.7 cm, con hojas de 4-7 x 0.7-1.2 cm; las ramas florales se producen tanto del tallo principal como de las ramas primarias. Hojas equidistantes a lo largo del tallo y las ramas; vaina tubular, lisa, hasta 4 cm de largo; lámina angostamente lanceolada, ápice bilobado, margen entero, subcoriácea, lisa, verde claro con pequeños puntos negruzcos. Inflorescencia terminal en las ramas, florece una sola vez, dística, 4-7 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, con 3-5 brácteas imbricadas, conduplicadas, de 15-23 mm de largo. Brácteas florales más largas que el ovario, ovadas, conduplicadas, aproximadas a parcialmente imbricadas, verdes con pequeños puntos negruzcos, rápidamente tornándose pardas, 18-25 mm de largo. Flores 4-9, simultáneas, blanco-crema, base de la columna verde, ápice blanco-crema; fragancia diurna, dulce, intensa. Ovario no inflado, terete, no ornamentado, verde, 15-22 mm de largo. Sépalos extendidos, libres, con quilla dorsal apical pequeña, glabros, subcoriáceos. Sépalo dorsal ovado-elíptico, agudo, márgenes algo revolutos, plurinervado, 10-12 x 3-5 mm. Sépalos laterales ovado-lanceolados, agudos, márgenes algo revolutos, plurinervados, 10-12 x 3-5 mm. Pétalos extendidos, membranáceos, angostamente elíptico-oblancoelados, obtusos a redondeados, márgenes extendidos, plurinervados, 10-11 x 2-3.5 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, entero, carnoso, cordiforme, con callo en forma de "V" prolongándose en una carina central, márgenes enteros, 8.5-10 x 6-10 mm. Columna recta, corta, 4-5 mm de largo. Clinandrio no prominente, margen eroso. Antera obreniforme, 4-locular. Polinios 4, semiobovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales; caudículas del doble de largo que los polinios; viscidio semilíquido, transparente. Rostelo subapical, hendido. Lóbulos laterales del estigma prominentes, de la mitad del largo de la cavidad estigmática. Nectario profundo, penetrando la mitad del ovario, liso interiormente. Cápsula piriforme, 20-25 x 10-12 mm, con pico cónico de 5-6 mm de largo.

Epiphytic, hanging, branching herb. Roots produced only at the base of the plant. Main stems and primary branches with longer leaves than the flowering branches, which are produced from either the main stem or the primary branches. Leaves evenly distributed throughout the stem and branches, narrowly lanceolate, apex bilobed, subcoriaceous. Inflorescence terminal in the branches, distichous, flowers only once. Floral bracts longer than the ovary, shortly spaced apart to partly imbricating. Flowers 4-9, simultaneous, creamy-white, the base of the column green; fragrance diurnal, sweet, strong. Sepals ovate-elliptic to ovate-lanceolate, acute, many-nerved. Petals narrowly elliptic-oblancoelate, obtuse to rounded, many-nerved. Lip united to the column, entire, cordiform, with a V-shaped callus extended into a central keel. Column straight. Clinandrium not prominent, margin erose. Pollinia 4; caudicles soft and granulose, twice as long as the pollinia; viscidium semiliquid, transparent. Rostellum slit. Nectary deep, penetrating half the ovary. Capsule pyriform.

OTHER SPECIMENS: COSTA RICA: Alajuela: Alfaro s.n., AMES(x2)! US! Brenes 1593, AMES! CR! NY(x2)! Endres 126, W(x2)! Lent sub Rodriguez 1212, USJ! Tonduz 12189, BR! G(as "Pittier 12189", x2)! P! US(x2)! 13180, P! Williams et al. 29007, NY! Cartago: Lanckester 771, AMES! 1395, AMES(x2)! SEL! 1664, SEL! 1760, SEL! 1801, SEL! Standley 36008, AMES! US! Guanacaste: Standley & Valerio 45636, US! Heredia: Hágsater et al. 6689, AMO! Puntarenas: Croat 26671, MO! NICARAGUA: Heller 1590, SEL! Skutch 1590, SEL! PANAMA: Chiriquí: Davidson 213, F! 434, F!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Hanging from the tallest trees in tall evergreen forests, from 600 to 1800 m altitude. Flowering from February to April.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum mora-retanae* has large, hanging, much branching plants with subcoriaceous (not fleshy), 10-17 cm long lanceolate leaves, and 4-9-flowered racemes produced in flowering branches arising from either the main stem or the primary branches, with subimbricating floral bracts and creamy-white, fragrant flowers. *E. acufiae* Dressler is similar, but has thicker, fleshy leaves and 1-3 brownish or greenish flowers in a much smaller inflorescence. *E. santaclairensis* Ames has green flowers, widely spaced floral bracts, and the flowers are produced in larger branches. *E. paranaense* Barb. Rodr., from Brazil, is similar in habit but differs in the strongly imbricating floral bracts and in floral details.



CONSERVATION STATUS: Not threatened. Though the habitat in some parts of its original range of distribution has been disturbed, this species is still found frequently in conserved areas and is of little horticultural interest.

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet honors Biologist Dora Emilia Mora-Retana, Director of the Lanckester Garden, University of Costa Rica, with a main interest in the study and conservation of the Costa Rican orchids.

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