

Epidendrum nutantirhachis A. & S. sp. nov. Herba robusta, caulescens. Caulis crassus, distichophyllus, foliorum vaginis maxima pro parte inclusus, superne ramosus. Folia elliptico-oblonga, in apice rotundato oblique bilobata, inferne decidua. Inflorescentiae breves, nutantes, in ramorum summitate. Sepala late patentia, petala abrupte reflexa. Sepala lateralia ovato-lanceolata. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala lineari-lanceolata. Labellum triangulari-cordatum, lateribus erectis. Discus callo magno omnino occupatus.

Plant stout, reaching 55.3 cm. in height (incomplete). Roots fibrous, rigid, more or less branching, issuing from the nodes of the stem. Stem stout, mostly concealed by chartaceous leaf-sheaths, freely branching above with short branches, about 5-6 mm. in diameter below, somewhat compressed shining yellowish and longitudinally striate in the dried specimen. Leaves distichous, lingulate, elliptic or elliptic-oblong, up to 6 cm. long and 1.5 cm. wide on the main stem, those on the branches much smaller, obliquely bilobed at the rounded apex, clasping at base, coriaceous, mostly deciduous on the lower portion of the stem. Inflorescences short, at the summit of short lateral branches which are often ramifying. Racemes nodding, 3- to 6-flowered, up to 3 cm. long. Rachis sessile or nearly so, usually fractiflex. Floral bracts horizontally spreading, ovate, conduplicate, about equaling the pedicellate ovary, dorsally carinate. Flower small, fleshy; sepals horizontally spreading; petals abruptly reflexed at base. Lateral sepals ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 8-8.9 mm. in length along the posterior margin, 3-3.9 mm. wide, acuminate, mucronate from a dorsal keel near the apex, oblique, concave. Dorsal sepal similar, 7.5-8.2 mm. long, 2.7-3.2 mm. wide, acute or acuminate, mucronate from a dorsal keel near the apex, concave. Petals obliquely linear-lanceolate, 6.1-7.7 mm. long, acute with a blunt tip, about 1-2 mm. wide. Labellum adnate to the column to the apex; lamina tubular-involute with erect sides (disc cannot be flattened without rupture) ovate-triangular or triangular-cordate, 4.8-6 mm. long in the middle, 2.2-3 mm. wide in natural position, broadly auriculate-rounded on each side at base, acuminate, lateral margins irregular, disc mostly occupied by a large lobulate fleshy callus. Column very short and stout, bluntly 3-dentate at the apex with the middle tooth narrower and ascending.

Epidendrum nutantirhachis appears to be closely allied to *E. microdendron* Reichb. f., but it is a stouter plant with larger leaves and different lip. Vegetatively it is very similar to *E. platystigma* Reichb. f.

The description was made from dried specimens.

COSTA RICA, Three miles Northeast of El Copey, H. E. Stork 1603, April 18, 1928. 7000 feet altitude. "From fallen Oak." (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 35588); Stork 1657, April 20, 1928. 7500 feet altitude.