

EPIDENDRUM PALMIDIUM Hágsater  
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 2

*EPIDENDRUM PALMIDIUM* Hágsater, *sp. nov.*

Holotype: COSTA RICA: San José: Entre Filo de la Cordillera de Talamanca y Hacienda La Lucha, 1800 m, col. Mar. 1981, pressed 13 Oct. 1983, *E. Hágsater 6349* & *C. Horich* AMO! (illustration voucher).

Clonotype: INB!

*Epidendro palmensi* Ames simile sed inflorescentia simultanea, foliis angustioribus, labello reniformi profunde cordato, petalis latioribus et odore nocturno dulci, differt.

Hierba epífita, cespitosa, 20-33 cm de alto. Raíces basales, carnosas, gruesas, 2-3 mm de grosor. Tallos sencillos, tipo caña, lateralmente comprimidos hacia el ápice, rectos, 8-20 x 0.5-0.9 cm. Hojas 2-3(4), dísticas, distribuidas hacia el ápice del tallo, subcoriáceas; vaina tubular, lateralmente comprimida, lisa, ca. 5 cm de largo; lámina articulada, angostamente oblonga, ápice desigualmente bilobado, margen entero, lisa, verde, 4-11.5 x 1.2-1.6 cm. Espata ausente. Inflorescencia apical, del tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, racemosa, dística, erecta, flexuosa, 9-18 cm de largo; pedúnculo y raquis lateralmente comprimidos, ancipitosos, no ornamentados; brácteas del pedúnculo 1-5, semejantes a las florales, subparalelas al pedúnculo, imbricadas, conduplicadas, agudas, 25-50 mm de largo. Brácteas florales más largas que el ovario, hasta casi tan largas como el ovario y perianto, conduplicadas, anchamente ovadas, acuminadas, arqueadas hacia adentro, 16-30 mm de largo, en las inflorescencias secas, ya sin flores, son abiertas, no imbricadas, algo arqueadas hacia adentro, agudas. Flores 4-7, simultáneas, no resupinadas, secundas, verdes teñidas de morado, el labelo con la quilla verde, columna verde, brácteas algo teñidas de morado, fragancia nocturna dulce, grasa. Ovario terete, inflado en toda su longitud, no ornamentado, 8-12 mm de largo. Sépalos entreabiertos, más o menos extendidos, libres, oblongo-elípticos, obtusos, glabros, coriáceos, margen extendido; el dorsal apiculado, 5-nervado, 14 x 5 mm; los laterales carinados, la carina dentada, 7-nervados, 14 x 7 mm. Pétalos entreabiertos, angostamente elípticos, arqueados, obtusos, margen extendido, 1-nervados, 14 x 2 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, entero, reniforme, profundamente cordado, ápice truncado, emarginado, margen entero, 12-14 x 15-20 mm; bicalloso, los callos laminares; con una carina roma, ancha. Columna recta, gruesa, 9 mm de largo. Clinandrio reducido, entero. Antera reniforme, con una quilla roma al frente, 4-locular. Polinios 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales; caudículas suaves y granulosas, más largas que los polinios; viscidio semilíquido, transparente. Rostelo hendido, subapical. Lóbulos laterales del estigma de 1/4 del largo de la cavidad estigmática. Nectario penetrando a todo lo largo del ovario, inflado en toda su longitud, no ornamentado.

Caespitose epiphyte. Stem simple, laterally compressed near the apex, erect. Leaves 2-3(4), distichous, narrowly oblong, apex bilobed, subcoriaceous. Inflorescence apical, from mature growth, distichous, erect, flexuose; peduncle and rachis laterally compressed, ancipitose. Floral bracts longer than ovary, conduplicate, acuminate, arched inward. Flowers 4-7, simultaneous, non-resupinate, secund, green somewhat purple-tinted, the column and keel of the lip green, bracts purple-tinted, nocturnal, sweet, greasy fragrance. Ovary inflated throughout. Sepals oblong-elliptic, apiculate, 5-veined; the laterals dorsally keeled, the keel dentate, 7-veined. Petals narrowly elliptic, obtuse, 1-veined. Lip entire, reniform, deeply cordate, apex emarginate; bicallose with a wide, median low rounded keel. Column straight. Clinandrium reduced. Anther reniform, 4-celled. Rostellum slit. Nectary penetrating all of the ovary, inflated throughout.

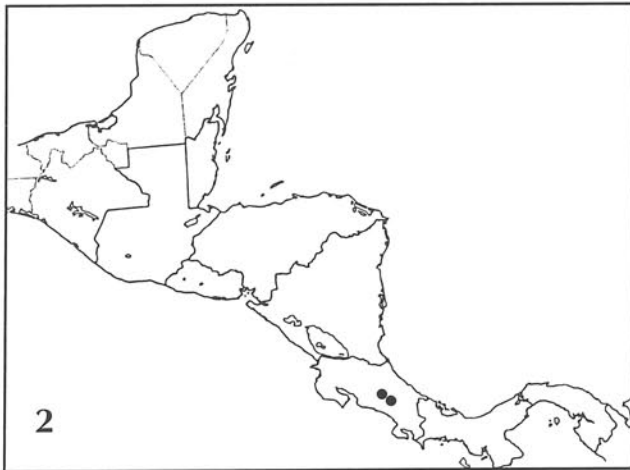
OTHER SPECIMENS: COSTA RICA: San José: *Williams 19682* SEL! Cartago: *Atwood 4163 et al.* US! *Williams 19848* SEL!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Apparently common in wet forests in the Cordillera de Talamanca in Costa Rica, 1600-1800 m altitude. Flowering May-October.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum palmidium* belongs to the *Epidendrum coriifolium* Lindl. group and is closely related to *E. palmense* and has been confused as a small, poor specimen of the latter, it can be recognized by the relatively narrow and short leaves (4-11.5 x 1.2-1.6 cm), acuminate floral bracts which are nearly as long as the flower, the reniform lip which is deeply cordate at the base and emarginate at the apex, flowers are produced simultaneously and have a sweet, greasy nocturnal fragrance, quite distinct from the strong seminal fragrance of *E. palmense* which has wider leaves, generally 2.5-3.5 cm wide. *Epidendrum caluerorum* Hágsater from Panama has similar sized leaves, but the lip is truncate at the base and the petals linear, the inflorescence is commonly more elongate and the basal bracts are strongly incurved. *Epidendrum coriifolium* is endemic to Chiapas, Mexico and Guatemala, and has compact plants, with leaves up to 3.5 cm wide.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Unknown. The species seems relatively common in Costa Rica especially in the Cordillera de Talamanca.

ETYMOLOGY: From "palm" in reference to *E. palmense*, with the Greek suffix "idium" diminutive; alluding to the appearance of the species as a "poor specimen" thereof.



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