



EPIDENDRUM PARADISICOLUM Hágsater & García-Cruz
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 2

EPIDENDRUM PARADISICOLUM Hágsater et García-Cruz, sp. nov.

Holotype: COSTA RICA: Provincia Cartago: Cantón Paraíso, Reserva Natural de Tapantí, 9°45'32"N 83°44'47"W, 1300-1500 m, bosque tropical perennifolio, 25 Sep. 1996, pressed 25 Feb. 1997, L. Sánchez 434, J. García-Cruz, D. E. Mora & O. Rodríguez INB! (illustration voucher). Isotype: AMO! (flowers in spirit).

Epidendro stevensii Hágsater simile sed foliis brevioribus, sepalis petalisque brevioribus 7-nervatis, vesica brevior, labello cordiformi et clinandrio brevi.

Hierba epífita, rastrera, ramificada, 25 cm de largo. **Raíces** filiformes, producidas a lo largo de los tallos, ca. 1 mm de grosor. **Tallos** ramificados, tipo caña, teretes, flexuosos, el principal 15 x 0.1-0.25 cm, las ramas más cortas, 7-9 cm de largo, producidas del tallo principal y de cerca del ápice de las ramas anteriores. **Hojas** numerosas, distribuidas a lo largo de los tallos, subcoriáceas, las basales caedizas; vaina tubular, estriada, escariosa, 1-2 cm de largo; lámina articulada, angostamente lanceolada, ápice bilobado, 2-4.5 x 0.4-0.9 cm. **Espata** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, del tallo principal y de las ramas, racemosa, dística, 2-2.5 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, ca. 5 mm de largo; cubierto completamente por una bráctea ovada, obtusa, 6-8 mm de largo. **Brácteas florales** conduplicadas, ligeramente más largas que el ovario, ovado-oblongas al extenderse, obtusas, 8-12 x 4-6 mm. **Ovario** inflado ventralmente en la mitad apical, 9-12 mm de largo. **Flores** 2-3, simultáneas, dísticas, el vientre contra le raquis, verdes. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, lanceolado-elípticos, obtusos, mucronados, 9-11-nervados, 6.5-7.5 x 2-2.5 mm; el **dorsal** obtuso; los **laterales** agudos, más anchos. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, lineares, obtusos, 7-nervados, 6-7 x 1 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, entero, cordiforme, agudo, cóncavo en posición natural, 4 x 3.5 mm; callo laminar en forma de "Y", unicarinado, la carina prolongándose desde el callo hasta el ápice de la lámina del labelo. **Columna** recta, corta, 3 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, sinuoso. **Antera** obovoide, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, semiovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales. **Rostelo** hendido, subapical. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** cubriendo 1/3 de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** penetrando hasta la mitad del ovario, inflado, no ornamentado. **Cápsula** no vista.

Repent, branched, epiphyte. **Roots** filiform, produced throughout the stems. **Stems** branched, from a main stem, flexuous, terete. **Leaves** distributed throughout the stems; sheaths striated, scariosae; blade articulate, narrowly lanceolate, apex bilobed, subcoriaceous. **Inflorescence** apical from the main stem and branches; peduncle short, with a basal, ovate, obtuse bract. **Floral bracts** ovate-oblong, obtuse, conduplicate, slightly longer than the ovary. **Ovary** inflated ventrally in the apical half. **Flowers** 2-3, distichous, green. **Sepals** partly spreading, lanceolate-elliptic, mucronate; **dorsal** obtuse; **lateral** acute, wider than the dorsal sepal. **Petals** partly spreading, linear, obtuse. **Lip** entire, cordiform, acute; callus "Y" shaped, extending into a central keel running down to the apex of the lip. **Column** straight, short. **Clinandrium** short. **Anther** obovoid, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, semiovoid, laterally compressed. **Rostellum** slit. **Nectary** penetrating 1/2 of the ovary, inflated.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the Natural Reserve of Tapantí, tropical rain forest, 1300-1500 m altitude. Flowering in cultivation in February.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum paradisicum* belongs to the *Epidendrum modestiflorum* Schltr. group and is distinguished by the branched, repent habit, main stem with shorter lateral branches, the leaves short and narrow (2-4.5 x 0.4-0.9 cm), 2-3 flowered distichous inflorescence, the flowers green, small, sepals 6.5-7.5 mm long, cordiform lip, and short clinandrium. It is easily confused with *E. stevensii* which is distinguished by its larger plants, leaves 4-7 cm long, ovary which forms an elongate vesicle, sepals 7-9 mm long, triangular-cordate lip, and reduced clinandrium. *Epidendrum flexicaule* Schltr. also has numerous leaves 3-8 cm long, the ovary which forms a short vesicle, the perianth segments 9-12 mm long, petals 2 mm wide, ovate-cordiform lip, the apex rounded, and reduced clinandrium.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD (data deficient).

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek "*paradisicola*" inhabitant of Paradise, in reference to the locality where it was collected.



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