

EPIDENDRUM (§ EUEPIDENDRUM) **pendens** L. O. Williams, sp. nov. (pl. 23). Herbae epiphyticae, pendentis, usque ad 45 cm. longae. Folia elliptica vel elliptico-lanceolata, coriacea, disticha, marginata. Inflorescentia uni-pauciflora. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-oblancheolatum, acutum, carnosum. Sepala lateralia elliptica, acuta, carnosum. Petala linearia, obtusa vel acuta, carnosum. Lamina labelli trilobulata, suborbicularis, nervo medio crassato et nervis radiantibus crassatis ornata; lobi laterales rotundati; lobus medius subquadratus, emarginatus. Columna generis.

Pendent, epiphytic herbs about 45 cm. long. Leaves 9–15 cm. long and 2–3.5 cm. broad, elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, coriaceous, distichous, marginate, gray, deciduous; leaf-sheaths loose, completely investing the stem, pergameneous, ancipitous, the abscission line prominent. Inflorescence of 1 or few large, terminal flowers subtended by a leaf-like sheath up to 3 cm. long. Flowers large for the genus, green. Dorsal sepal about 5 cm. long and 1.2 cm. broad, oblong-oblancheolate, acute, fleshy, with 5–7 main nerves. Lateral sepals 4.3–4.8 cm. long and 1.5 cm. broad, elliptic, acute, fleshy, with about 7 main nerves. Petals about 4.5–5 cm. long and 2 mm. broad, linear, somewhat narrowed to the base, obtuse or acute, fleshy, 1-nerved. Lip with the claw adnate with the column to the apex of the column; lamina about 2.5–3 cm. long and 3 cm. broad, 3-lobed, suborbicular in general outline, with a thickened central nerve and with thickened nerves or ridges radiating from it and covering the remainder of the lip, lateral lobes rounded, about 1.5 cm. long, mid-lobe 1–1.5 cm. long and about 1.5 cm. broad, subquadrate, emarginate. Column 1.5–2 cm. long and 6–8 mm. in diameter at the apex, fleshy.—COCLÉ: epiphytic, pendent plants, foliage gray, flower terminal, green; vicinity of La Mesa, El Valle de Antón, alt. about 1000 m., June 22, 1941, *Allen 2570* (Herb. Ames, TYPE).

Epidendrum pendens is most closely allied to *E. Medusae* (Reichb. f.) Pfitz., a rare plant of the Ecuadorian Andes, from which it is easily distinguished by the 3-lobed, nonfimbriated lip. If the genus *Nanodes* Lindl. were maintained this species would be the third one known.

Mr. Allen's note (in lit.) is of considerable interest: "Epiphytic, entire plant directly pendent, foliage distichous, stiff, gray, flowers terminal, green. This is one of the most remarkable orchids I have ever seen. The foliage is a dead, almost lead-gray, although the plant was the picture of perfect health. The flower is the sort of thing that you would expect a child to construct, after being told in a general way what the floral pattern of an orchid should be."

The description is from a dried plant and a single flower preserved in spirits.

