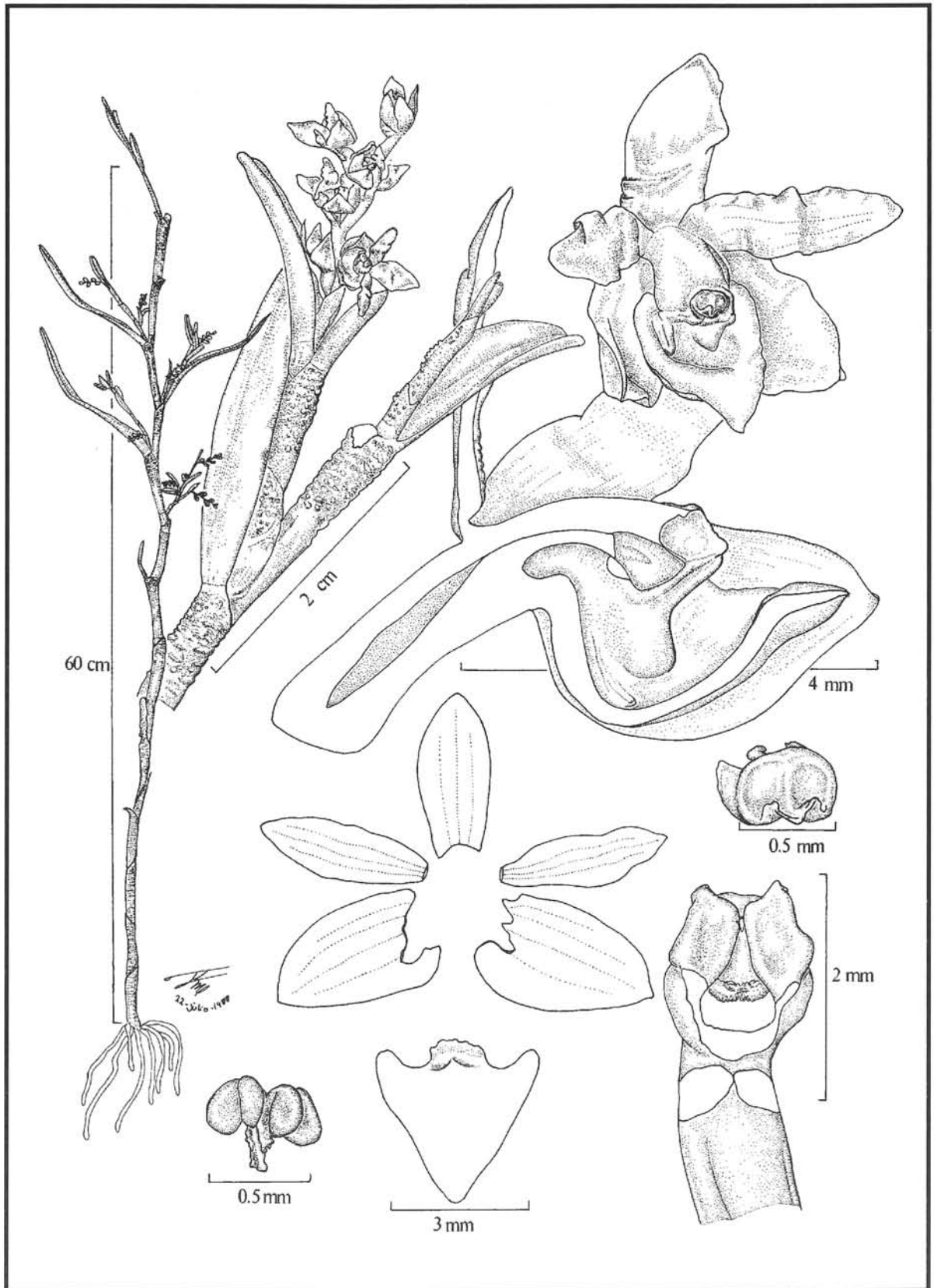




EPIDENDRUM PLATYSTOMOIDES Hágsater & L.Sánchez

Plate 872

EPIDENDRUM PLATYSTOMOIDES Hágsater et L. Sánchez, sp. nov.

Type: COSTA RICA: Cartago: Rt. 2, km 64, más allá de la Cima, camino hacia el N ca. 500 m, páramo con restos de bosque bajo de neblina, 9°40'30"N 83°53'30"W, 2430 m, col. 28 enero 1988, prensado 3 agosto 1988, *Eric Hágsater & Dora Emilia Mora de Retana 9507*. Holotype: AMO! (Illustration voucher).

Epidendrum platystomum Hágsater & L. Sánchez simile sed caulis principalis foliis longioribus, sepalis lateralibus 4-nerviatis, petalis anguste ellipticis, labello triangulari-hastato sinubus basalibus parum profundis, ad apicem laevi et bicalloso, callis laminaribus minutissimis, columna arcuata in tote longitudine, discrepat.

Hierba epífita, monopodial, ramificada, 30-90 cm ó más de alto. **Raíces** basales, carnosas, delgadas. **Tallos** ramificados, tipo caña, teretes, flexuosos, cubiertos por vainas rugosas, siendo éstas más evidentes hacia el ápice de cada vaina, el principal amarillo, ca. 90 x 0.38-0.55 cm; los tallos secundarios 3-9 x 0.1-0.2 cm; los tallos terciarios o florales muy cortos, producidos de los secundarios o del principal, 2-3 x 0.05-0.1 cm. **Hojas** numerosas, en el tallo principal, 5-6 en los secundarios, 2 a 3 hojas en los tallos terciarios; vaina foliar tubular, rugosa, 0.4-5 cm de largo; lámina foliar articulada, linear lanceolada, ápice oblicuamente bilobado, las del tallo principal 11-14.5 x 1-1.3 cm, las de los tallos secundarios 2.5-4 x 0.4-0.5 cm, las de los tallos terciarios, 1.5-2 x 0.18-0.25 cm. **Bráctea** espatácea ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical de los tallos secundarios y terciarios, racemosa, distíca, arqueada, florece una sola vez, 1.5-2 cm de largo; pedúnculo muy corto, 1.5-2 mm de largo; el raquis en zigzag. **Brácteas florales** mucho más largas que el ovario, conduplicadas, ovadas, agudas, 4.5-5.5 x 1.6-2 mm. **Ovario** terete, no inflado, liso, 1.8-2.3 x 0.3-0.5 mm. **Flores** 3-6, simultáneas, no resupinadas, blancas, fragancia no registrada. **Sépalos** glabros, libres, entreabiertos, subcoriáceos, margen extendido, entero, 2.9-3.1 x 1.2-1.4 mm; el dorsal obovado, agudo, 3-nervado; los laterales oblicuos, ovados, redondeados, 4-nervados. **Pétalos** glabros, libres, entreabiertos, angostamente elípticos, agudos, 3-nervados, margen extendido, algo sinuado, 2.9-3.1 x 0.4-0.5 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, entero, triangular hastado, ángulos basales angostamente redondeados, coriáceo, ápice redondeado, 2.8-3 x 3-3.2 mm; bicalloso, los callos laminares, muy pequeños. **Columna** corta, arqueada en toda su longitud, con una apertura alargada y angosta formada por un par de alas laminares, prominentes, en forma de embudo, margen entero, 1.5-2 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, margen entero. **Antera** subreniforme, con un pico apical laminar ancho, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovoides, caudículas suaves y granuladas, algo más largas que los polinios. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** cortos. **Nectario** corto, sin traspasar el perianto, amplio, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, monopodial, branching herb. **Roots** basal, fleshy, thin. **Stem** branching, cane-like, terete, flexuous, covered by rugose sheaths, especially rugose towards the apex, the main stem yellow, tall and thick, the secondary branches much smaller and the tertiary or floral branches very short. **Leaves** numerous on the main stem, very long, 5-6 on the secondary stems, much smaller, 2-3 on the tertiary stems, somewhat smaller; sheaths tubular, rugose towards the apex; blade articulate, linear-lanceolate, apex obliquely bilobed. **Inflorescence** apical, from the secondary and tertiary or floral stems, racemose, distichous, arching, flowering only once, peduncle very short, rachis zigzag. **Floral bracts** much longer than the ovary, conduplicate, ovate, acute. **Ovary** terete, not inflated, smooth. **Flowers** 3-6, simultaneous, non-resupinate, white. **Sepals** glabrous, free, partly spreading, subcoriaceous, margin spreading, entire; dorsal sepal obovate, acute, 3-veined; lateral sepals oblique, ovate, rounded, 4-veined. **Petals** glabrous, free, partly spreading, narrowly elliptic, acute, 3-veined, margin spreading, somewhat sinuate. **Lip** united to the column, entire, triangular-hastate, coriaceous, the basal angles narrowly rounded, apex rounded; bicallose, the calli laminar, very small. **Column** short, arching throughout, with an elongate, narrow apical aperture funnel-shaped, formed by a pair of laminar wings, margin entire. **Clinandrium-hood** reduced, margin entire. **Anther** reniform, with a wide, transverse, laminar apical beak; 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, caudicles soft and granule, somewhat longer than the pollinia. **Nectary** shallow, without penetrating the ovary, wide, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Only known from the western end of the Cordillera de Talamanca in central Costa Rica; epiphyte in cloud forest remnants, 2430 m altitude. Flowering in cultivation in Mexico City in August.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum platystomoides* belongs to the Ramosum Group which is characterized by the monopodial, branching stems, the spike-like, distichous inflorescence, and the single callus, and the Rugosum Subgroup which has branching habit with few-flowered inflorescences from short, secondary stems, the leaf-sheaths rugose. The species is recognized by the tall, thick, flexuous main stems with long (11-14.5 cm), narrow leaves and rugose leaf sheaths, short, distichous inflorescence with 3-6 small, white flowers (sepals 2.9-3.1 mm long), and the triangular-hastate lip which is about as wide as it is long, bicallose, the calli laminar, very small, and the column arching throughout, short, with a funnel-shaped, blunt apex. It is similar to *Epidendrum platystomum* Hágsater & L. Sánchez which has shorter leaves on the main stem (5-8 cm), smaller sepals (2.3-2.7 mm long), and a widely, deeply triangular-hastate lip, with the apex thickened and minutely papillose, ecallose, and the column arched at the base only. *Epidendrum sanchoi* Ames has larger flowers, sepals 4.5-6.5 mm long and 5-veined, lanceolate, acute, and a proportionately narrower triangular-hastate, acuminate lip, and the union with the column straight and narrow. *Epidendrum trachythece* Schltr. has smaller flowers, sepals 1.5-3.5 mm long, 5-7 veined, the lip is reniform-apiculate, bicallose, the calli prominent, wide, and reaching the middle of the disc. *Epidendrum nutantirhachis* Ames & C. Schweinf. grows in the same general area, and has somewhat shorter leaves on the main stem (to 9.5 cm), larger flowers (sepals 6-11 mm long), and a triangular-cordate lip with a prominent fleshy callus and high central keel.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD: Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek πλατύς- wide, broad, and στόμα- mouth, opening, in reference to the widely elongate apical aperture of the column-lip which this species shares with *Epidendrum platystomum*, and the ending -οειδής, which denotes resemblance.



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