

EPIDENDRUM PTEROCAULUM Hágsater et E.Santiago, sp. nov.

Type: COSTA RICA: San Cristóbal, April, **Endres s.n.** Holotype: W-R 13652! (Illustration voucher).

Epidendrum suavis (Rchb.f. & Warsc.) Løjtnant simile sed floribus minoribus purpureis, pedunculo ancipitose et labello transverse elliptico cum venis ramosis tribus, incrassatis laevibus, labelli totam superpficiem tegentibus, discrepans.

Hierba simpodial, erecta, ca. 12 cm de alto (incluyendo la inflorescencia). **Raíces** probablemente basales. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, teretes en la base y algo lateralmente aplanados arriba, delgados, erectos, 7.5 cm de largo; cubiertos en la base por vainas tubulares, no foliáceas, escariosas, 11-16 mm de largo. **Hojas** ca. 5, alternas, articuladas, subcoriáceas; vaina tubular, finamente estriada, 3-20 mm de largo; lámina angostamente elíptica, obtusa, margen entero, 6 x 1.1 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, florece una sola vez, racemosa, pauciflora, erecta, 5 cm de largo; pedúnculo lateralmente aplanado, ancipitose, recto, 2.7 cm de largo; provisto de 2 brácteas, angostamente triangulares, acuminadas, abrazadoras, 5-6 mm de largo; raquis lateralmente aplanado, oculto casi totalmente por las brácteas florales, muy corto, 7 mm de largo. **Brácteas florales** más cortas que el ovario, angostamente triangulares, acuminadas, abrazadoras, 3-4 mm de largo. **Ovario** terete, muy delgado en sus 2/3 basales y fuertemente inflado detrás del perianto, no ornamentado, 8 mm de largo. **Floros** 6, no resupinadas, membranáceas, llamativas, de color púrpura; sin datos de fragancia. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, elípticos-obovados, diminutamente apiculados, margen entero, extendido, 9.5-10.5 x 4.5-5.2 mm; el **dorsal** con el ápice redondeado, 3-nervado, las nervaduras laterales cortamente ramificadas; los **laterales** con el ápice obtuso, 5-nervados, oblicuos. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, libres, oblanceolados, redondeados, 3-nervados, margen crenulado, extendido, 9 x 2.2 mm. **Labelo** unido oblicuamente a la columna, entero, transversalmente elíptico, truncado en la base, ligeramente emarginado en el ápice, margen denticulado, 8.5 x 10 mm; ecalloso; disco con tres venas engrosadas, lisas, ramificadas, que radian en la mayoría de la superficie del labelo. **Columna** ligeramente arqueada hacia arriba en el ápice, amplía en toda su longitud, pero especialmente hacia el ápice, 6 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, margen entero. **Antera** subcuadrada-reniforme, 4-locular, con una quilla central, erosa, en la superficie dorsal, el ápice ligeramente emarginado. **Polinios** 4, obovoides, algo lateralmente comprimidos; caudículas no vistas. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** prominentes. **Nectario** penetrando el ovario justo detrás del perianto, amplio, no ornamentado. **Cápsula** no vista.

Erect, sympodial **herb.** **Roots** probably basal. **Stems** simple, cane-like, terete at the base, somewhat laterally compressed above, thin, erect; base covered by non-foliar, scarious, tubular sheaths. **Leaves** ca. 5, alternate, articulate, subcoriaceous; sheath tubular, minutely striated; blade narrowly elliptic, obtuse, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, flowering only once, racemose, few-flowered, erect; peduncle laterally compressed, ancipitose, straight; provided with 2 narrowly triangular, acuminate, amplexicaul bracts; rachis laterally compressed, nearly totally hidden by the floral bracts, very short. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, narrowly triangular, acuminate, amplexicaul. **Ovary** terete, very thin along the basal 2/3, and strongly inflated thereafter, smooth. **Flowers** 6, non-resupinate, membranaceous, showy, purple colored. **Sepals** partly spreading, free, elliptic-obovate, minutely apiculate, margin entire, spreading; dorsal sepal apically rounded, 3-veined, the lateral veins short-branched; lateral sepals apically obtuse, 5-veined, oblique. **Petals** partly spreading, free, oblanceolate, rounded, 3-veined, margin crenulate, spreading. **Lip** obliquely united to the column, entire, transversely elliptic, base truncate, apex slightly emarginate, margin denticulate; ecallose; disc with 3 thickened, branching, radiating, low, smooth, veins. **Column** slightly arching upwards at the apex, thick throughout, but especially towards the apex. **Clinandrium-hood** short, margin entire. **Anther** sub-quadrate-reniform, apex slightly emarginate, with a low, erose, central, dorsal keel; 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, somewhat laterally compressed. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating the ovary just behind the perianth, wide, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

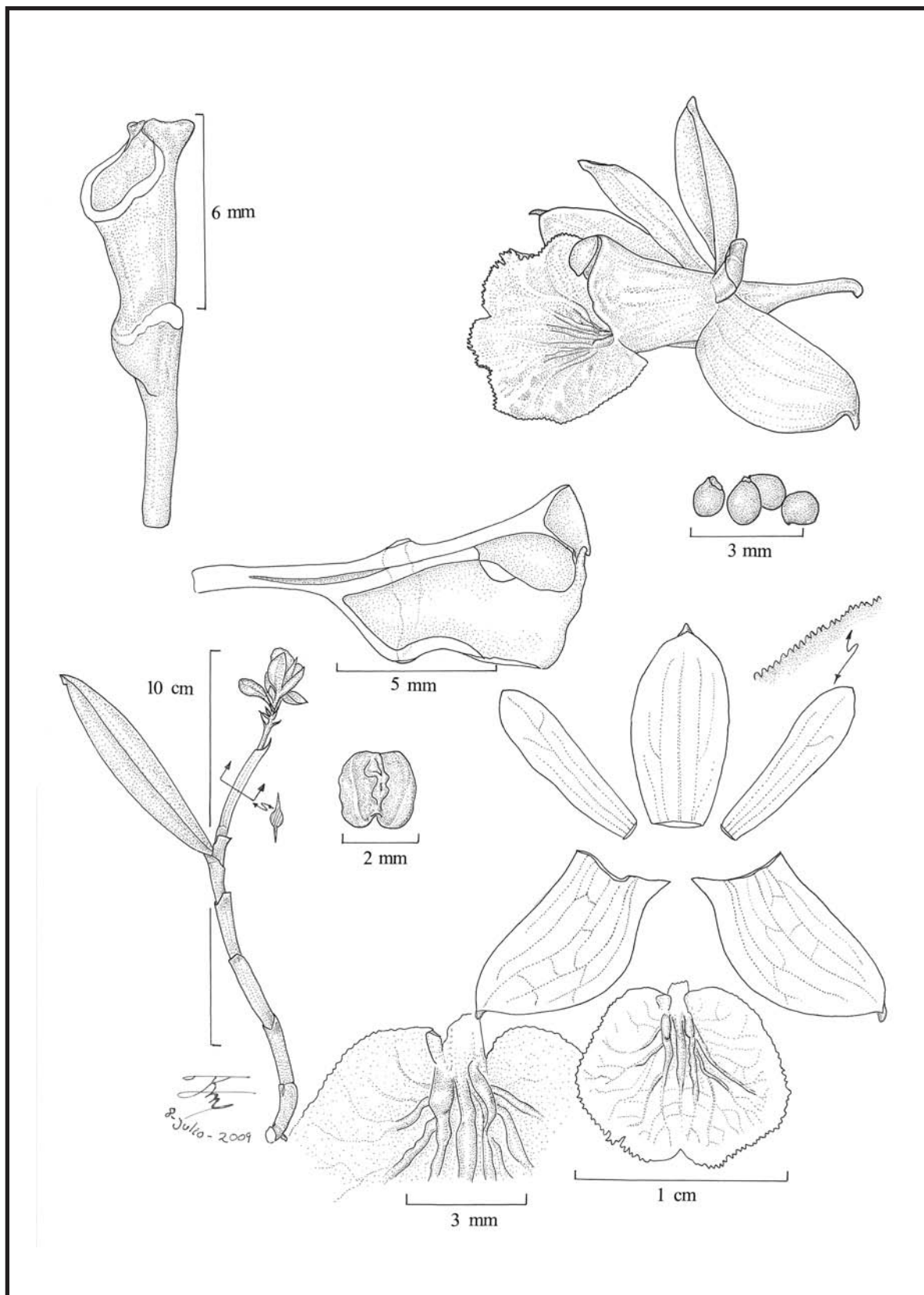
DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from central Costa Rica, precise placement of the locality not known. Flowering in April.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum pterocaulum* is recognized by the racemose inflorescence with an ancipitose peduncle, and short rachis with few showy, purple flowers, sepals about 10 mm long, the lip with thickened, smooth, branching, radiating veins, and the inflated nectary just behind the perianth. We have not been able to place it to a group, though the flattened peduncle of the inflorescence is reminiscent of the *Neowilliamsia* Group, but the pollinarium lacks the hard, tape-like caudicles. The *Allenii* subgroup of the *Albertii* Group also has a flattened, two-winged peduncle, but the floral bracts are ovate-elliptic, conduplicate and imbricating. The flowers of *Epidendrum suavis* have similar, obliquely united column-lip, and ecallose lip, but has monopodial plants where the new stem originates from the apical internodes of the previous stem, leaves are linear-lanceolate and inflorescences lax-flowered, the flowers yellow to yellowish brown.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek πτερον, wing, and the Latin *pedunculus*, stem, in reference to the peduncle of the inflorescence; i.e. with a winged stem.





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Plate 1279