



EPIDENDRUM SALPICHLAMYS Hágsater & E.Santiago

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

Type: COSTA RICA: Cartago: In forest along creek debouching into Río Grande de Orosí from the east, ca. 1 km upstream from confluence of Quebrada Salta, Tapantí, 9°43'N 83°47'W, 1500-1700 m, 12 July 1984, *Michael H. Grayum & Pam Sleeper 3446*. Holotype: MO! (Illustration voucher).

Epidendro cryptantho L.O. Williams simile sed caulibus gracilioribus, foliis angustioribus, inflorescentia simplici racemosa, floribus luteo-viridibus buccinatis, sepalis connatis in dimidio basali, labello oblongo, remotum.

Hierba epífita, simpodial, suberecta, de crecimiento sucesivo lateral, donde cada tallo nuevo se origina de los entrenudos basales del tallo anterior; 16-30 cm de alto. **Raíces** escasas, distribuidas en los entrenudos basales de los tallos, delgadas, blancas; 0.7-1.1 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, teretes, delgados, suberectos; 9-16 x 0.1-0.25 cm; cubiertos por vainas tubulares, escariosas, fibrosas con el tiempo; 10-23 mm de largo. **Hojas** 2-3, agrupadas en el ápice del tallo, alternas, articuladas, subcoriáceas; vainas tubulares, ligeramente infladas en el ápice, finamente estriadas, 10-15 mm de largo; lámina angostamente elíptica, aguda, margen entero, 3-10 x 0.8-1.7 cm. **Bráctea espátacea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, sésil, racemosa, densa, florece una sola vez, arqueada, 2 cm de largo; pedúnculo y raquis ocultos totalmente por múltiples brácteas. **Brácteas florales** tan largas como el ovario, ovadas, subagudas, conduplicadas, imbricadas, glumáceas, margen entero, 10-15 mm de largo. **Flores** ca. 5, sucesivas, en forma de trompeta, tubulares en la base, con el ápice de los segmentos florales extendidos, amarillo verdosas; sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** corto, terete, delgado, no inflado, liso, 5-6 mm de largo. **Sépalos** fusionados en la mitad basal, extendidos y abruptamente reflexos arriba de la mitad, membranáceos, glabros, oblongos, ligeramente ensanchados cerca del ápice, redondeados, 5-nervados, no ornamentados, margen entero, 8.3 x 3 mm; los **laterales** ligeramente divaricados en la mitad apical. **Pétalos** libres, entreabiertos, espatulados, redondeados, 3-nervados, las nervaduras laterales con ramificaciones cortas bifurcadas en el ápice, margen extendido, entero, 8.3 x 3 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, cordado en la base, la base abrazando la columna, entero, oblongo, ápice redondeado y apiculado, margen ondulado, 7.2 x 3.7 mm; bicalloso, los callos laminares, bajos, delgados, divaricados; disco provisto de una quilla prominente, laminar, alta, lisa. **Columna** algo doblada hacia abajo en la base, recta, corta, gruesa, 2 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, margen entero. **Antera** subobovoidea, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, ovoides, caudículas suaves y granuladas, tan largas como los polinios. **Rostelo** subapical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** sin penetrar el ovario, no inflado, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, sympodial, suberect **herb**, with lateral successive growth, where the new stem originates from a basal internode of the previous stem. **Roots** scarce, distributed along the basal internodes of the stem, thin, white. **Stems** simple, cane-like, terete, suberect; covered by tubular, scariosus sheaths, becoming fibrous with time. **Leaves** 2-3, aggregate towards the apex of the stem, alternate, articulate, subcoriaceous; sheaths tubular, slightly inflated apically, minutely striated; blade narrowly elliptic, acute, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, sessile, racemose, dense, flowering only once, arching; peduncle and rachis totally hidden by multiple bracts. **Floral bracts** as long as the ovary, ovate, subacute, conduplicate, imbricating, glumaceous, margin entire. **Flowers** ca. 5, successive, trumpet-shaped, the base tubular, the floral segments then spreading widely; greenish yellow. **Ovary** short, terete, thin, not inflated, smooth. **Sepals** fused along the basal half, then spreading and abruptly reflexed above the middle, membranaceous, glabrous, oblong, slightly widened near the rounded apex, 5-veined, margin entire; apical half of the lateral sepals somewhat divaricate. **Petals** free, partly spreading, spatulate, rounded, 3-veined, the lateral veins above the middle, and bifurcate near the apex, margin spreading, entire. **Lip**, united to the column, entire, oblong, base cordate, apex rounded, apiculate, margin undulate, the base embracing the column; bicallose, the calli laminar, low, narrow, divaricate; disc provided with a prominent, laminar, high, smooth keel. **Column** bent downwards at the base, straight, short thick. **Clinandrium-hood** reduced, margin entire. **Anther** subobovoid, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, caudicles soft and granulose, as long as the pollinia. **Rostellum** subapical, slit. **Nectary** without penetrating the ovary, not inflated, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: See appendix.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the Atlantic slope of the Cordillera in Central Costa Rica, from the Monteverde Reserve to the basin of Tapantí. Epiphytic, growing at 1300-1700 m altitude. Flowering in June and July.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum salpichlamys* belongs to the Polychlamys Group, Polychlamys Subgroup which is characterized by the successive lateral growths produced from the middle of the previous growth, few leaves aggregated towards the apex of the stems, the distichous, apical inflorescence with prominent, conduplicate, acute, glumaceous floral bracts. The species is distinguished by the narrow leaves (less than 17 mm wide), simple, sessile, compact, racemose inflorescence, with imbricating floral bracts, the trumpet-shaped, greenish yellow flowers, with the sepals basally connate and abruptly reflexed above the middle, the oblong lip and the thin, non-inflated ovary. It closely resembles *Epidendrum cryptanthum* confirmed only from intermediate altitudes (600-1000 m) in central Panama, and which has a more robust habit, with thicker stems, wider leaves (17-33 mm wide), a compact but panicle inflorescence with 1-3 dense, simultaneous racemes, (a feature which is not evident from the compact inflorescence, especially in pressed specimens) and creamy white flowers hidden by the floral bracts, the sepals free, and the lip obovate.

Epidendrum lutheri Hágsater has an elongate inflorescence with widely spaced, spreading floral bracts, the rachis clearly visible and sinuous, larger flowers, the free sepals 13-15 mm long, and the ovary forms a prominent vesicle. *Epidendrum bugabense* Hágsater also has an elongate inflorescence, with numerous imbricating bracts that partially cover the peduncle, a straight rachis, larger red flowers, 16-19 mm long sepals free, the lip obovate-suborbicular, and the ovary forms a prominent vesicle as well.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek σαλπιγῆ, trumpet, and, χλαμυς, military cloak, mantle, in reference to the trumpet shape of the flower and to the large, glumaceous floral bracts which are characteristic of the species of the Polychlamys Group, and facilitate its recognition.

