

EPIDENDRUM SPHENOSTELE Hágsater & E.Santiago

*EPIDENDRUM SPHENOSTELE* Hágsater et E.Santiago, *sp. nov.*

Type: PANAMÁ: Chiriquí: Boquete, Valle Fortuna; received flowers 1 October 1987, cultivated by Andres Maduro, sent to Robert L. Dressler, who in turn sent it to *E. Hágsater 9361*. Holotype: spirit AMO! (Illustration voucher.)

*Epidendro bicuniculato* Hágsater & E.Santiago simile sed labello oblongo (in aspectu generali), lobulis lateralibus parvis, columna incrassata cum marginibus lateralibus reflexis denticulatisque, nectario amplo ad fundum rotundato, distinctum.

Hábito no visto. Ovario terete, delgado, no inflado, liso, 9 mm de largo. Flores 2 (vistas), sin datos de color ni fragancia. Sépalos libres, elípticos, redondeados, 7-nervados, margen entero, extendido, 10 x 5.5 mm; el dorsal algo reflexo; los laterales extendidos. Pétalos extendidos, libres, obovado espatulados, algo convexos, redondeados, 5-nervados, margen entero, extendido, 8 x 7 mm. Labello unido a la columna, incipientemente trilobado, oblongo en forma general, la lámina extendiéndose desde la mitad apical de la columna, 7.5 x 3.5 mm; ecalloso, con un par de quillas cortas y paralelas que se desvanecen antes de llegar a la base del lóbulo medio; lóbulos laterales pequeños, anchamente subtriangulares, margen eroso dentado, 1 x 3 mm; lóbulo medio oblongo, ligeramente cóncavo en el ápice, subagudo, diminutamente apiculado, margen entero, algo involuto en posición natural, 3.5 x 2 mm. Columna corta, gruesa, amplia en la base y gradualmente más angosta hacia el ápice, en forma de cuña, el ápice alargado hasta la mitad del labello con los márgenes laterales reflexos, denticulados, 4 mm de largo. Clinandrium reducido, margen entero. Antera 2-locular, ovoide, con una quilla dorsal baja. Polinios 2, angostamente obovoides; caudículas no vistas. Rostelo subapical, hendido. Lóbulos laterales del estigma no vistos. Nectario poco profundo, sin penetrar el ovario, amplio, redondeado al fondo, no inflado, diminutamente papiloso. Cápsula no vista.

Plant not seen. Ovary terete, thin, not inflated, smooth. Flowers only two seen. Sepals free, elliptic, rounded, 7-veined, margin entire, the dorsal sepals somewhat reflexed, the lateral sepals spreading. Petals spreading, free, obovate-spatulate, somewhat convex, rounded, 5-veined, margin entire, spreading. Lip united to the column, somewhat 3-lobed, oblong in general outline, blade spreading from the middle of the column; ecallose, with a pair of short, parallel keels, that do not reach the base of the midlobe; lateral lobes small, widely subtriangular, margin erose-dentate; midlobe oblong, slightly concave near the apex, subacute, minutely apiculate, margin entire, involute in natural position. Column short, thick, wide at the base, gradually narrowed towards the apex, wedge-shaped, apex extending to the middle of the lip, the lateral margins reflexed, denticulate. Clinandrium-hood reduced, margin entire. Anther 2-celled, ovoid, with a low, dorsal keel. Pollinia 2, narrowly obovoid. Rostellum subapical, slit. Nectary shallow, without penetrating the ovary, wide, rounded, not inflated, minutely papillose.

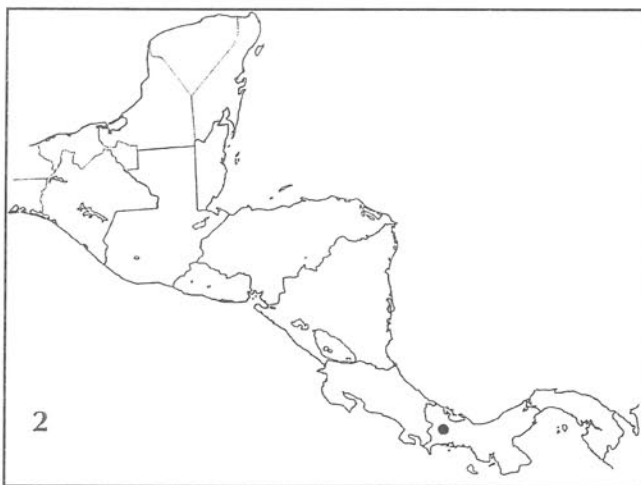
OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from western Panama, from a cultivated plant.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum sphenostele* belongs to the Neowilliamsia Group characterized by the ancipitose stems and rachis, the rachis with conduplicate, acute bracts, distichous, non-resupinate flowers, the lip often digitate and the 2 or 4 pollinia with 2 hard, laminar, caudicles. The species is recognized by the relatively large flowers (sepals 10 mm long), the wide, obovate-spatulate petals, the oblong lip spreading from the middle of the column, with very small lateral lobes, conical column with and the apex with the lateral margins reflexed and denticulate. *Epidendrum bicuniculatum* has similar sized flowers but the lip spreads from the base of the column and is widely obovate, with prominent lateral lobes as long as the midlobe, and the column is thin, and the laminar lateral margins are slightly erose. *Epidendrum dwyeri* Hágsater has slightly smaller flowers (sepals 7-8.6 mm long), a suborbicular lip, cuneate, spatulate petals, and the column thin and vertically compressed. *Epidendrum philowerckleri* Hágsater & E.Santiago has very similar wide, column and nectary, but the flowers are smaller (sepals 6.0-6.5 mm long), the lip 3-lobed with the margin of the lateral lobes divided and finger-like.

NOTE: In nearly all species of *Epidendrum* the lip expands from the apex of the column, or from where the union of the column and the claw of the lip end. However in this species, the blade extends from the apical half of the column. *E. bicuniculatum* and *E. epidendroides* the lip starts spreading from the base of the column, and the union of the column to the lip extends well beyond, to about the middle of the lip or beyond.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.



ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek σφηνωτός, cuneate, and στηλη, column, in reference to the wedge-shaped column of this species.

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ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 9. 2007. Plate 989