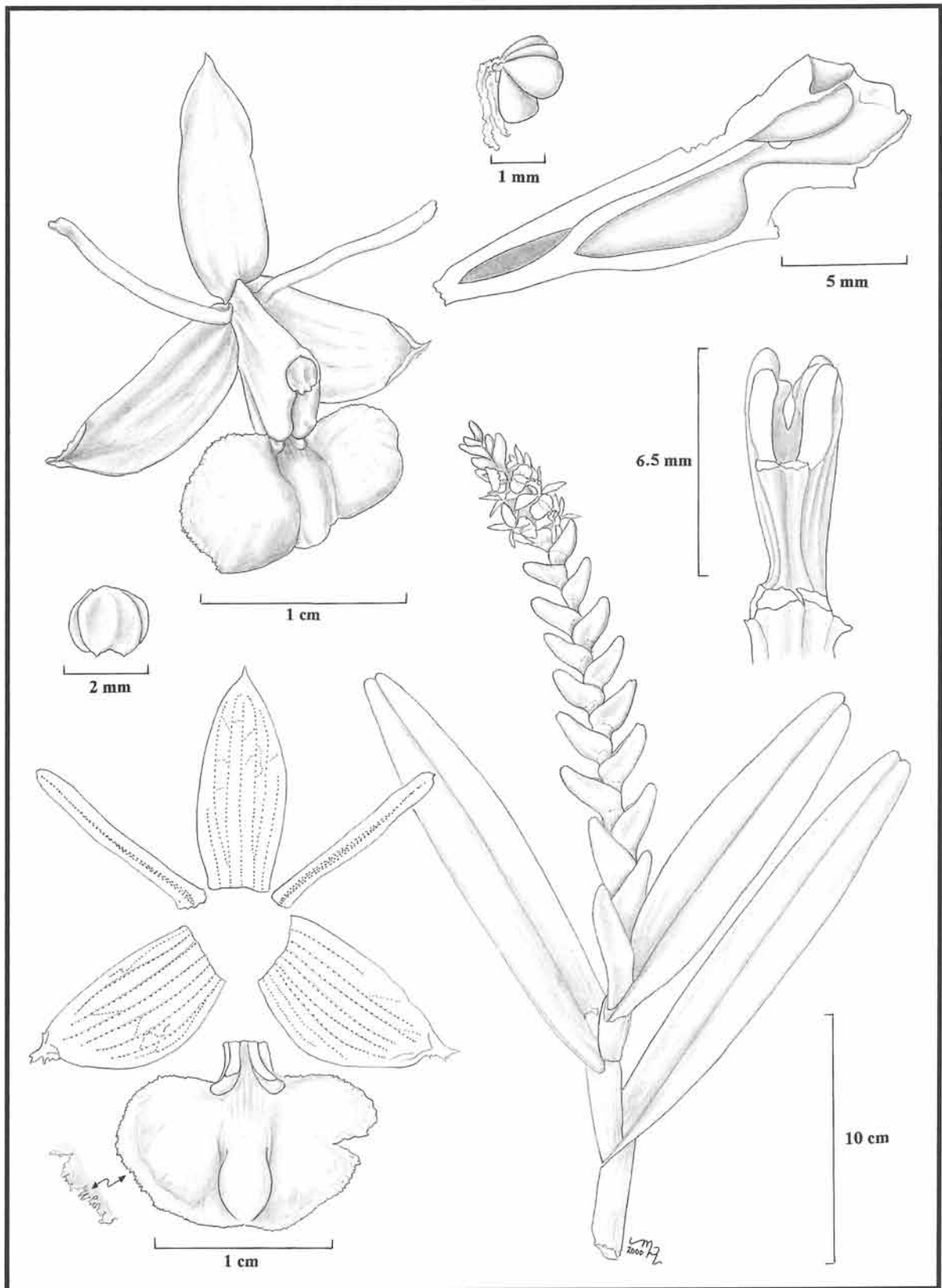




EPIDENDRUM SYNCHRONUM Hágsater
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

EPIDENDRUM SYNCHRONUM Hágsater, sp. nov.

Type: COSTA RICA: San José: en la Cordillera Central, La Palma, al norte de San Jerónimo de Moravia, bosque de neblina, 1450 m, 20 December 1982, pressed 14 August 1986, *E. Hágsater 6990*. Holotype: AMO! (Illustration voucher). Clonotype: pressed 15 June 1984, US!

Epidendro allochroon Hágsater simile sed florescentia successiva cum 4-5 floribus simul apertis, bracteis floralibus brevioribus et latioribus, sepalis acutis vice acuminatorum, petalis lineari-oblongis rotundatis vice lineari-acuminatorum differens.

Hierba epífita, simpodial, cespitosa, 25-45 cm de alto, incluyendo la inflorescencia. **Raíces** basales, carnosas, gruesas, 2-3 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, lateralmente comprimidos, rectos, 13-20 x 0.7-1.4 cm. **Hojas** 2-4(5), dísticas, distribuidas en la mitad apical del tallo; vaina tubular, lateralmente comprimida, lisa, hasta de 4.5 cm de largo; lámina angostamente oblonga, ápice desigualmente bilobado, margen entero, subcoriácea, lisa, verde con la base de las hojas nuevas amoratadas, 9-17 x 1.7-3.2 cm. **Bráctea espátácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, del tallo maduro, racemosa, florece una sola vez, dística, erecta, zigzag, 17-23+ cm de largo, pedúnculo y raquis lateralmente comprimidos, ancipitosos, no ornamentados, brácteas del pedúnculo semejantes a las florales pero subparalelas al raquis, imbricadas, conduplicadas, de 2-5 cm de largo. **Brácteas florales** desde más largas que el pedicelo hasta casi tan largas como este, ovadas, conduplicadas, ápice obtuso, casi redondeado, 17-32 x 6-14 mm; en las inflorescencias secas, ya sin flores, son abiertas, no imbricadas, algo arqueadas hacia adentro, obtusas. **Flores** 7-20, sucesivas, hasta 5 abiertas a la vez, no resupinadas, secundas, color verde teñidas de rojo borgoña, columna verde, brácteas algo teñidas de morado; fragancia nocturna seminal. **Ovario** inflado ventralmente en su mitad apical, terete, no ornamentado, 17 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, ovado elípticos, agudos, glabros, coriáceos, margen extendido, entero, el **dorsal** 5-nervado, las nervaduras medias bifurcadas cerca de la base, 12.5 x 5 mm; los **laterales** con una quilla dorsal dentada, aristados, 7-nervados, algunas nervaduras bifurcadas cerca de la base, 11.5 x 6 mm. **Pétalos** adnados a los sépalos laterales, linear oblongos, redondeados, 1-nervados, margen extendido, 12 x 1.4 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, reniforme, base cordada, ápice redondeado, ligeramente emarginado, margen eroso, 8.5 x 14 mm; bicalloso, los callos pequeños, casi soldados al ápice de la columna, con una carina central roma ancha que termina en el seno apical. **Columna** recta, corta, gruesa, 6.5 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Antera** reniforme, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovóides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales; caudículas suaves y granuladas, más largas que los polinios; viscidio semilíquido, transparente. **Rostelo** subapical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** pequeños, menos de un cuarto del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** profundo, penetrando la mitad del ovario, inflado detrás del perianto, no ornamentado. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, sympodial, caespitose **herb**. **Stem** simple, laterally compressed, erect. **Leaves** 2-4(5), distichous, narrowly oblong, apex bilobed, coriaceous. **Inflorescence** terminal from mature growth, distichous, erect, zigzag, laterally compressed, ancipitose. **Flowers** 7-20, successive, up to 5 open at one time, non-resupinate, secund, somewhat burgundy-red tinted, the column green, bracts purple tinted; nocturnal seminal fragrance. **Floral bracts** longer than ovary to nearly as long as ovary and column, conduplicate, apex obtuse, nearly rounded, arched inward. **Ovary** inflated ventrally along the apical half. **Sepals** ovate-elliptic, acute, laterals dorsally keeled, the keel dentate towards the apex, aristate, 5-7-veined. **Petals** linear-oblong, apex rounded, 1-veined. **Lip** reniform, base cordate, apex somewhat emarginate, bicallose (the calli adnate to the column apex) with a wide, median low rounded keel. **Column** straight, clinandrium reduced, rostellum slit. **Clinandrium hood** reduced, entire. **Anther** reniform, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, subequal, caudicles soft and granulate, slightly longer than the pollinia, viscidium semiliquid, transparent. **Nectarium** deep, penetrating half of the ovary, inflated behind the perianth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: none seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from the Cordillera Central in Costa Rica, at 1450 m altitude, epiphytic in cloud forest. Flowering in January-March, June-August. In cultivation in Mexico City.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum synchronum* belongs to the Spathiger Group which is characterized by the sympodial growth habit, distichous inflorescence with large, conduplicate bracts, fleshy green flowers with narrow petals and reniform lip. The new species is recognized by the oblong leaves up to 3.2 cm wide, the wide, rounded, floral bracts, successive flowers with up to 5 open at one time, acute sepals, and linear-oblong, rounded petals. It is similar to *Epidendrum allochroon*, identified by the very narrow, linear, acuminate petals, the very long, relatively narrow, rounded, floral bracts, and the acuminate sepals, linear, and acuminate petals. The seminal fragrance is similar to that of *Epidendrum alvarezdeltoroi* Hágsater and *Epidendrum palmense* Ames; the first having the inflorescence no longer than the leaves and the flowers simultaneous, the second being recognized by the acute floral bracts and simultaneous flowers. *Epidendrum summerhayesii* Hágsater has similar floral bracts but these are more compact and imbricating, the petals somewhat wider, the whole inflorescence often deeply purple tinged, especially in Colombia.



CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek, συν- with, together, and χρόνος- time, *synchronous*, in contraposition to *E. allochroon* which produces one flower at a time, though neither produces all the flowers simultaneously.

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