



EPIDANTHUS TALAMANCANA
Text on reverse side

PLATE 1315
Icones Plantarum Tropicarum

EPIDANTHUS TALAMANCANA Atwood, sp. nov.

Affine *E. muscicola* sed plantis floribusque grandioribus et callo angustiore differt. TYPE: Province of San Jose, Villa Mills, *L. O. Williams 19876* (Holotype SEL).

Plant a wiry, straggly, rhizomatous epiphyte to 30 cm tall, the shoots forming 2-5.5 cm apart. Roots white, to 0.5 mm in diameter. Leaves to 16 per shoot, 3-10 mm apart, acicular, 0.5-4 cm long, 1-2.5 mm wide. Inflorescence a terminal, fractiflex raceme 3-5 cm long with up to 8 flowers borne gregariously. Ovary with pedicel 4 mm long, exceeding the subulate bract. Flowers creamy white to purplish. Sepals reflexed, lance-ovate, acute, 4.5-7 mm long, 2 mm wide; the lateral sepals keeled abaxially on the midvein. Petals linear, thickened and triangular in cross section at the base and toward the apex, acute, 4-5 mm long, without auricles or conspicuous glands on the upper side at the base. Lip united to the column by the sides of the narrow callus, 5-6.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, the blade 3-lobed, the lateral lobes broadly triangular, the midlobe lanceolate, 1.5-3 mm long, with a plate-like callus at the base less than a quarter the lip width and with the sides upturned and united with the column forming a tube. Column stout, 2 mm long, pollinia 2.

Ecology: Epiphytic in mossy cloud forests at 2000-2600 m elev. It is apparently common where found.

Distribution: Costa Rica.

Notes: This is closely related to *Epidanthus muscicola* but has larger flowers with triangular lateral lobes and narrower callus. It also has a greater tendency to scramble on its host.

Flowering season: May to September.

Illustration voucher: *G. Davidse et al. 28792* (SEL).