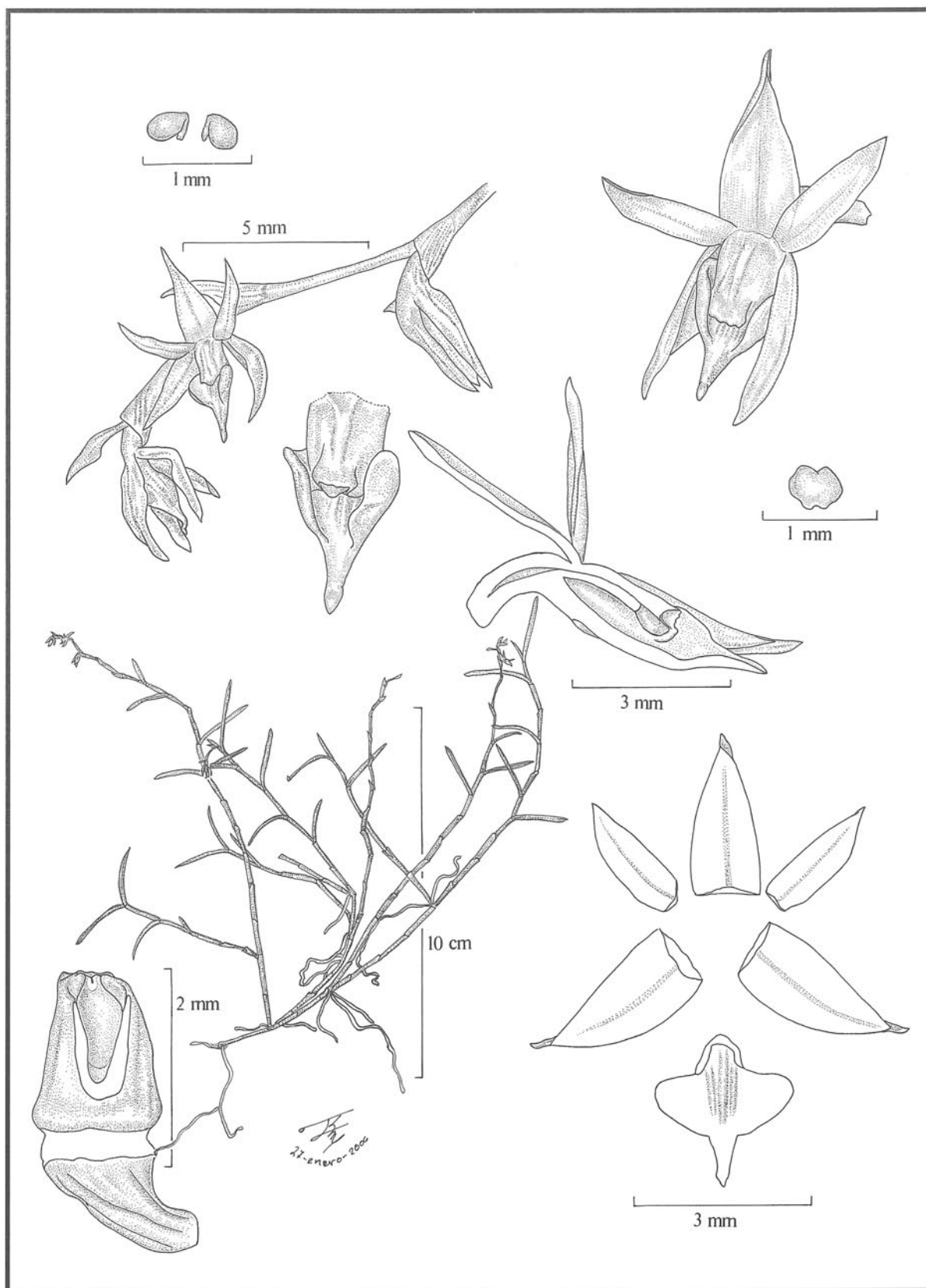




EPIDENDRUM TRITROPIANTHUM Hágsater & E.Santiago

Plate 998

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

Type: COSTA RICA: Heredia: Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo, NW slope of Volcán Barva, E of Refugio, 2100 m, 20 XI 1990, **Stephen Ingram & Karen Ferrell 743**. Holotype: INB ex AMO 15260! (Illustration voucher.) Isotypes: AMO 15259! F 2125929! SEL! in part, the thin-leaved specimen mounted on the right; the left-hand specimen corresponds to *E. paranthicum* Rchb.f. The specimen at USJ 37734! is also *E. paranthicum*.

Epidendro paranthico Rchb.f. simile sed petalis patentibus, floribus albis sed purpureo-rubello ad lobulorum lateralium margem, labello ecalloso cum 3 carinis humilibus.

Hierba epífita, simpodial, escandente, 13 cm de alto. **Raíces** en la base de cada tallo, escasas, filiformes, blancas, 0.2-0.4 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, producidos de los entrenudos basales de tallos anteriores, tipo caña, teretes, muy delgados, erectos, 7-10 x 0.02-0.08 cm. **Hojas** 5-8, distribuidas en la zona media apical del tallo, alternas, articuladas, algo carnosas, erecto extendidas; vaina tubular, finamente estriada, 4-9 x 0.2-0.8 mm; con una lígula muy pequeña del lado opuesto de la lámina, triangular, aguda, conduplicada, 1 mm de largo; lámina acicular, aguda, margen entero, 4-20 x 0.5-1 mm. **Bráctea espátacea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, florece una sola vez, racemosa, distica, secundiflora, laxa, erecta, 3-3.3 cm de largo; pedúnculo lateralmente aplanado, recto, filiforme, 11-14 mm de largo; provisto en la parte media de una bráctea semejante a las florales, linear lanceolada, subaguda, abrazadora, 4 mm de largo; raquis algo sinuoso. **Brácteas florales** algo más largas que el ovario, anchamente triangulares, agudas, amplexicaules, 2-3 mm de largo. **Ovario** terete, delgado, no inflado, liso, 1.5 mm de largo. **Flores** 3-7, sucesivas, resupinadas, disticas, segmentos florales blancos con el ápice verdoso, lóbulos laterales del labelo púrpura rojizos; sin datos de fragancia. **Sépalos** libres, ovado triangulares, agudos, con una quilla dorsal prominente, 1-nervados, margen entero, extendido, 2.7-3 x 1.2 mm; el dorsal algo reflexo; los laterales entreabiertos, paralelos a la columna, oblicuos. **Pétalos** extendidos, libres, oblongo ovados, agudos, 1-nervados, margen entero, 2.2 x 0.7 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, 3-lobado, base truncada, margen entero, 2 x 2.4 mm; ecalloso, disco con 3 quillas bajas; lóbulos laterales insertados cerca de la base de la columna, oblicuamente triangulares, redondeados, abrazando a la columna en posición natural (sin envolverla por completo) 1 x 1 mm; lóbulo medio angostamente triangular, agudo, 1 x 0.4 mm. **Columna** corta, recta, gruesa, 2 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, margen crenulado. **Antera** reniforme, 2-locular. **Polinios** 2, obovoides, caudículas algo granulosas, más cortas que los polinios. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** sin penetrar el ovario, no inflado, no ornamentado. **Cápsula** no vista.

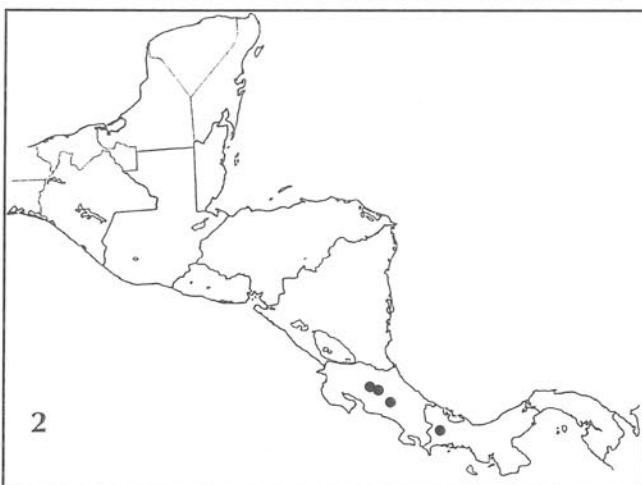
Epiphytic, sympodial, scandent herb. **Roots** originating from the base of the stem, scarce, filiform, white. **Stems** simple, produced from the basal internodes of the previous stems, cane-like, terete, very thin, erect. **Leaves** 5-8, distributed throughout the apical half of the stem, alternate, articulate, more or less fleshy, erect-spreading; sheath tubular, minutely striated, with a small ligule, narrowly triangular, acute, opposite the blade; blade acicular, acute, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, flowering only once, racemose, secund, lax, few-flowered, erect; peduncle laterally compressed, straight, filiform, provided in the middle with a bract similar to the floral bracts; rachis sinuous. **Floral bracts** somewhat longer than the ovary, widely triangular, acute, amplexicaule. **Ovary** terete, thin, not inflated, smooth. **Flowers** 3-7, successive, resupinate, distichous, floral segments white, the apex greenish, lateral lobes of the lip reddish purple. **Sepals** free, ovate-triangular, acute, with a prominent, dorsal keel, 1-veined, margin entire, spreading, the dorsal sepals somewhat reflexed, the lateral sepals partly spreading, parallel to the column, oblique. **Petals** spreading, free, oblong-ovate, acute, 1-veined, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, base truncate, margin entire; ecallose, disc with 3 low keels; lateral lobes inserted near the base of the column, obliquely triangular, rounded, embracing the column in natural position, without covering it; midlobe narrowly triangular, acute. **Column** short, straight, thick. **Clinandrium**-hood short, margin crenulate. **Anther** reniform, 2-celled. **Pollinia** 2, obovoid, caudicles somewhat granulose, shorter than the pollinia. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** short, without penetrating the ovary, not inflated, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: COSTA RICA: Cartago: Tapantí, 20 VI 1987, Achí OA-8, USJ! Heredia: cerca de Varablanca, 5 XII 1984, Dressler 263, USJ!

OTHER RECORDS: PANAMA: Chiriquí: Guadalupe, XII 1977, Dressler s.n., color slide published as *Epidanthus paranthicus* (Rchb.f.) L.O.Williams, (Dressler, 1983).

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known from the Cordillera Central in Costa Rica and western Panama, epiphytic in moss, in cloud forest at 2100 m altitude. Flowering in June to December.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum tritropianthum* belongs to the *Epidanthus* Group, which is characterized by short small, somewhat scandent plants with very thin stems, very narrow, more or less fleshy leaves, with a small, narrowly triangular, acute ligule opposite the blade, an apical, distichous, usually secund inflorescence, and 2 or 4 pollinia. The species is



recognized by the white flowers with the lateral lobes of the lip reddish purple, the petals spreading, sepals and petals 1-veined, and the lip ecallose with 3 low keels. *Epidendrum paranthicum* has white flowers with a yellow lip, or, yellow to greenish yellow flowers, or reddish-brown, sometimes dotted flowers, the petals slightly reflexed and the lip with an evident semicircular callus. *Epidendrum talamancanum* (Atwood) Mora Retana & J.García has much larger plants, longer leaves (0.9-3.2 cm long), the flowers usually cream colored or white, occasionally tinged purple, the sepals and petals 3-veined, 4.2-7 mm long sepals reflexed, and the lip with a single, minutely apiculate callus.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek τρις, three, στροπις, keel, and ανθος, flower, in reference to the 3 keels of the lip, which characterize this species from other members of the *Epidanthus* Group.

REFERENCES: Barringer, K., 1991, A revision of *Epidendrum* subgenus *Epidanthus* (Orchidaceae), Britonia 43(4): 247-248. Dressler, R. L., 1983, *Epidanthus* ¿será o no será? *Epidanthus crassus*, una nueva especie de Panamá, Orquidea (Méx.) 9(1): 13-19.