



EPIDENDRUM VILLOTAE Hágster & Dodson  
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 2

Plate 398  
ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 3. 1999

**EPIDENDRUM VILLOTAE** Hágster et Dodson, sp. nov.

Holotype: ECUADOR: Esmeraldas: Lita to San Lorenzo km 50, 260 m, 12 May 1990, **C. H. Dodson 18221, A. Gentry, B. Boyle & D. Rubio** RPSC! Clonotype: 14 May 1993 (plant later cultivated in Mexico City) **C. H. Dodson 18221 sub E. Hágster 10680** AMO! (spirit, illustration voucher), 31 Aug. 1995 AMO! 16 Dec. 1997 AMES! COL! QCNE!

*Epidendro allochronum* Hágster simile sed follis 5-6, angustioribus, bracteis multo longioribus et acutioribus apice acuto et ad rhachidem parallelis.

Hierba epífita, cespitosa, ca. 35-90 cm de alto. Raíces basales, carnosas, gruesas, 3 mm de grosor. Tallos sencillos, tipo caña, rectos, lateralmente comprimidos, 27-33 x 0.5-0.9 cm. Hojas 4-6, disticas, distribuidas en la mitad apical del tallo, subcoriáceas; vaina tubular, lateralmente comprimida, ancipitosa, estriada, 3-6 cm de largo; lámina articulada, angostamente oblonga, ápice desigualmente bilobado, margen entero algo revoluto, lisa, verde pálido con el margen amarillento, (5)9-20 x 1.2-2.1 cm. Espata ausente. Inflorescencia apical, del tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, racemosa, distica, erecta, flexuosa, ca. (7)50(100) cm de largo; raquis lateralmente comprimido, ancipitoso, no ornamentado; brácteas del pedúnculo hasta 5, semejantes a las florales pero mucho más largas, casi paralelas al pedúnculo, imbricadas, conduplicadas, (19)46-96 x 7-8 mm. Brácteas florales más largas que el ovario, ovadas, conduplicadas, agudas, 18-35 mm de largo, se desarrollan progresivamente, después de antesis son extendidas, no imbricadas. Flores hasta 60, sucesivas, no resupinadas, desarrollándose y abiertas una o dos a la vez, verde manzana, brácteas algo teñidas de rojizo-morado, fragancia no registrada. Ovario grueso, terete, no ornamentado, 12-18 mm de largo. Sépalos entreabiertos a más o menos extendidos, el dorsal reflexo, libres, quilla dorsal prominente, glabros, coriáceos, elípticos, aristados, margen extendido, 7-9 nervados, 17.5-18 x 6-9 mm; los laterales más anchos. Pétalos libres o plegados a los sépalos laterales, oblanceolados, agudos, margen extendido, 3-nervados, 17 x 3 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, entero, obreniforme, emarginado y mucronado, margen entero a finamente eroso, 12.5 x 17.5 mm; ecalloso; tricarinado, la carina central gruesa y roma formando el mucrón grueso. Columna recta, gruesa, 10 mm de largo. Clinandrio reducido, entero. Antera ovoide, aguda, con una quilla roma al frente, 4-loacular. Polinios 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, subiguales; caudículas suaves y granulosas, más largas que los polinios; viscidio semiliquido, transparente. Rostelo subapical, hendido. Lóbulos laterales del estigma de color rojo vino intenso, 1/4 del largo de la cavidad estigmática. Nectario penetrando 3/4 partes del ovario, no ornamentado. Cápsula no vista.

Epiphytic, caespitose herb. Stems simple, laterally compressed, erect. Leaves 4-6, distichous, narrowly oblong, apex unequally bilobed, subcoriaceous, light green, the margin purple. Inflorescence apical from mature growth, racemose, distichous, erect, flexuose; rachis laterally compressed, ancipitose. Floral bracts longer than the ovary, conduplicate, acute, not imbricated, except for the basal bracts which are much longer and imbricating. Flowers up to 60, successive, developing and open one or two at a time, apple green. Ovary thick, terete. Sepals elliptic, aristate, dorsally keeled, 7-9-veined. Petals oblanceolate, acute, free or adnate to lateral sepals, 3-veined. Lip entire, obreniform, emarginate-mucronate, margin entire to finely erose; ecallose. Column straight. Clinandrium reduced. Anther ovate, acute, 4-celled, with a low keel in front. Pollinia 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, subequal; caudicles soft and granulose, slightly longer than the pollinia; viscidium semiliquid, transparent. Rostellum slit. Nectary penetrating 3/4 of the ovary.

OTHER SPECIMENS: COLOMBIA: Valle del Cauca: Río Dagua, mangrove, Killip 5323 AMES! Alto Calima, Valdivieso 259 & Restrepo HPUJ! Hort. Cali, Villota sub Hágster 7449 AMO!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Lowland Pacific in Ecuador and Colombia, in high rain forest and mangroves, from sea level to 250 m altitude. Flowering throughout the year.



RECOGNITION: The caespitose growth, stems with 4-6 coriaceous, strap-like leaves and especially the erect, distichous, ancipitose inflorescence with open, long acute floral bracts, the apex pointed parallel to the rachis, successive flowers, produced 1-2 at a time, identify this species. It has been confused with *Epidendrum coriifolium* Lindl., a closely related species from Guatemala and Mexico, with short, compact plants, the inflorescence about as long as the leaves and flowers simultaneous. *Epidendrum allochronum* has 2-3(4) leaves which are wider (1.9-3.2 cm), and the floral bracts are rounded and spreading, the apex not pointing inwards. *Epidendrum imitans* Schltr. from the eastern slope of the Andes in Central Ecuador has closely imbricating floral bracts with the apex rounded, several flowers open simultaneously, linear petals and a subtriangular lip.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD (data deficient).

ETYMOLOGY: In honor of Nelly Villota, amateur orchid grower of Cali, Colombia, who provided the first plant for cultivation.