

**Epipactis erosa** A. & S. *sp. nov.* Herba terrestris. Caulis perbrevis, vaginis laxis foliiferis omnino obtectus. Folia conferta, oblique ovato-lanceolata, acuminata. Pedunculus elatus, pubescens, vaginis aliquando foliaceis ornatus. Racemus laxis, multiflorus. Flores patentes, parvi. Sepala lateralia triangulari-lanceolata, parte basali valde concava. Sepalum dorsale lanceolatum. Petala sepalo dorsali valde adnata, obliquissime rhombico-lanceolata, marginibus superioribus crenulatis. Labellum triangulare, in basi valde saccatum, marginibus denticulatis.

Plant about 32 to over 40 cm. high. Rhizome decumbent, stem-like, producing at the nodes coarse fibrous flexuous lanuginose roots. Stems short, about 3-5 cm. tall, entirely enveloped by the loose imbricating bases of dilated petioles. Leaves 4, crowded, petioled; lamina ovate-lanceolate, oblique, 3-7.3 cm. long, 7.5-24 mm. wide, acute or acuminate, cuneate-narrowed at base, chartaceous, mid-nerve sulcate above and conspicuously carinate beneath; petiole gradually broadened into a dilated scarious infundibuliform sheath, up to 3.3 cm. long including this sheath. Peduncle up to the raceme 16-25 cm. long, finely pubescent, with 5-10 ascending lanceolate sheaths of which the lower ones have a tubular clasping base and the lowermost is sometimes foliaceous. Raceme 4.7-11 cm. long, the apical undeveloped part slightly recurved, subaxly flowered, rachis tomentose. Floral bracts narrowly triangular-lanceolate,

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acuminate, commonly surpassing the ovary but shorter than the flowers, somewhat pubescent on the outer surface near the base. Flowers very small. Sepals sparsely pubescent without. Lateral sepals triangular-lanceolate, 4-5 mm. long, about 2 mm. wide near the base, oblique, gradually narrowed to an obtuse cucullate tip, basal half strongly concave-saccate, 1-nerved. Dorsal sepal lanceolate, 3.8-4.9 mm. long, about 2 mm. wide near the base, subacute or obtuse, 1-nerved, somewhat concave. Petals strongly adherent to the dorsal sepal and somewhat surpassing it, very obliquely rhombic-lanceolate, inwardly falcate, 4-5 mm. long, 2-2.5 mm. wide below the middle, 1-nerved, anterior margins erose-crenulate, basal margins abruptly cuneate-narrowed and entire. Labellum strongly saccate at base with sides adherent to the column up to the clinandrium, 4-5.2 mm. long in natural position, gently recurved, lanceolate-triangular when expanded, acuminate, margins denticulate-erose, 3-nerved, the saccate base provided on the inner surface with several small digitiform tubercles. Column minute. Anther cordate-ovoid, apiculate, 2-celled. Ovary subsessile, spreading, densely pubescent, about 6 mm. long, enlarging in anthesis.

The description was made from dried specimens.

*Epipactis erosa* differs from all its Central American allies in its triangular-lanceolate acuminate lip of which the margins as well as the margins of the upper part of the petals are minutely erose-crenulate or denticulate.

COSTA RICA, Bosque de C. Laguna, A. M. Brenes (100) 430, November 10, 1922. 1180 meters altitude. Terrestrial. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 31113): Bosque en La Palma, Brenes (34) 364, October 30, 1922. 1190 meters altitude.