

*Erythroides epiphytica* Dressler, sp. nov.

*Epiphytica, recta; foliis ellipticis, acutis; petiolo lato; inflorescentiis dense multifloris; sepalis oblongis; petalis oblanceolato-subspatulatis; labello basi concavo, angustato, apice transverse oblongo, apiculato; calcare angusto.*

Epiphytic, leafy stem 10–20 cm; leaves several, elliptic, acute, petioles 4–6 cm long, up to 1.2 cm wide, blades 6.5–14 x 2.5–5.7 cm; inflorescence 15–30 cm, densely flowered in the upper half, inflorescence bracts narrow, tubular, decreasing in size from base of inflorescence, 2–5 x 1.4 cm; ovary densely glandular-pubescent; floral bracts lanceolate 8–12 x 1.5 mm; sepals sparsely glandular-pubescent, oblong, 3.5–4.5 mm long, laterals ca. 1.2 mm wide, dorsal ca. 1.5 mm wide; petals oblanceolate-subspatulate, apices adherent, connivent with dorsal sepal, ca. 3.5 x 1 mm; lip ca. 4 mm long, hypochile ca. 2.5 mm long, basally 2.2 mm tapering to ca. 1 mm, epichile ca. 1.6 mm wide, 0.8 mm long, apiculate, short-hispid; spur 2.5–3 mm long; column ca. 2.3 mm long.

TYPE: PANAMA: COCLE: Hills N of El Valle de Antón, 12 May 1973; epiphytic, flowers white, green within and basally, *R.L. Dressler* 4383 (holo. MO, iso. PMA).

OTHER COLLECTIONS SEEN: COSTA RICA: LIMON: Parque Internacional La Amistad, Quebrada Crori, Croriña, 9°25'15"N, 82°58'00"W, 600 m, epifita de unos 0.60 m, flores blancas, *A. Chacón* 241 (CR); path beyond Río Sucio, Braulio Carrillo, 400 m, 4 May 1984, *L.D. Gómez, I. Chacón y G. Herrera* 21203 (CR); Río Palomo, near Turrialba, fld. in cult. 13 July 1993, *R.L. Dressler* 6151 (FLAS).

This species is a member of *Erythroides* in the narrow sense. Herbarium specimens may be confused with the common *E. killipii* and especially with the larger-leaved forms of central Panama. *Erythroides epiphytica* is easily distinguished, however, by the more succulent stem and leaves, by the shorter, more densely clustered flowers, and especially by the broad, indistinct petiole. This is the *Erythroides* illustrated by Rafael Lucas Rodríguez (*Rodríguez et al.*, 1986). The plant is easily cultivated if treated as an epiphyte in a hanging basket where it is not readily accessible to snails or slugs.