

EPIDENDRUM ATROSCRIPTUM Hágaster

Text on the reverse side

Plate 109

ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 2. 1993

EPIDENDRUM ATROSCRIPTUM Hágster, sp. nov.

Holotype: MEXICO: Chiapas: Entre Palenque y Agua Azul, preparado de material cultivado, 23 agosto 1982, R. Triay sub Hágster 5727, AMO! (illustration voucher.)
Clonotypes: 23 junio 1981, AMO! XAL! 1 agosto 1981, K! US! 7 agosto 1983, MO!

Epidendro veroscripto Hágster simile, sed differt floribus successivis, centro labelli macula densa atropurpurea.

Hierba epífita o litófita, cespitosa, 30-90 cm de alto. Raíces basales, carnosas, ca. 2.5 mm de grosor. Tallos sencillos, tipo caña, teretes, rectos, muy ligeramente engrosados en el tercio apical, 30-90 cm de largo, 4-9 mm de grosor cerca del ápice. Hojas 7-14, distribuidas en la mitad apical del tallo; vaina tubular, lisa, hasta 5 cm de largo; lámina elíptica, aguda, margen entero, lisa, verde, 6-12 x 2.2-4.4 cm. Inflorescencia terminal en el tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, paniculada, arqueada, 22-50 cm de largo; pedúnculo ligeramente comprimido, sin espata, generalmente con dos brácteas basales (raramente ausentes), acuminadas, hasta 8 cm de largo. Bráctea floral de más corta a más larga que el ovario, triangular, acuminada, 2-19 mm de largo. Flores (12) 25-120, sucesivas, resupinadas, sin fragancia apreciable, abriendo de la base hacia el ápice de la inflorescencia, con botones apicales pequeños cuando las flores basales abren; sépalos, pétalos y mitad basal de la columna verde amarillento, mitad apical de la columna y labelo blancos, el disco con una densa mancha púrpura oscuro. Ovario no inflado, terete, finamente ornamentado, escasamente furfuráceo, 14-30 mm de largo. Sépalos reflexos, libres, sin quilla dorsal, fina y escasamente furfuráceos exteriormente, carnosos, angostamente spatulato-ob lanceolados, obtusos, márgenes extendidos, 3-nervados, con 4 nervios secundarios, 12-18 x 3-5 mm. Pétalos reflexos extendidos, membranáceos, angostamente lineares a filiformes, ápice dilatado, redondeado, márgenes extendidos, uninervados, 11-16 x ca. 0.8 mm (ancho cerca del ápice). Labelo unido a la columna, 4-lobado, bicalloso, con 3 carinas prominentes, romas, la central llegando hasta el seno apical, en ocasiones con otras mas pequeñas a los lados, cordado en la base, 7-9 x 9-14 mm (ancho entre los lóbulos apicales); lóbulos basales semicirculares, márgenes irregulares; lóbulos apicales sublinearfalcados, divaricados. Columna recta, delgada, 10-15 mm de largo. Clinandrio obsoleto, margen entero. Antera subsférica, 4-locular. Polinios 4, tipo "ala de pájaro", fuertemente comprimidos lateralmente, los interiores algo menores, transparentes; caudículas suaves y lisas, ligeramente más cortas que los polinios; viscidio semiliquido, transparente. Rostelo subapical, hendido. Lóbulos laterales del estigma prominentes, de alrededor de la mitad del largo de la cavidad estigmática. Nectario poco profundo, penetrando solo hasta la base del perianto, liso interiormente. Cápsula no vista.

Epiphytic or lithophytic, caespitose herb. Stems straight, reed-like. Leaves elliptic, acute. Inflorescence terminal, flowers only once, paniculate, arcuate. Flowers successive, the basal ones open when the apical buds are barely developing, resupinate; sepals, petals and base of column green, apex of column and lip white, disc heavily marked with deep purple. Sepals reflexed, narrowly spatulate-ob lanceolate, obtuse, fleshy, sparsely furfuraceous on the outer surface, 3-veined. Petals narrowly linear to filiform, dilated near the rounded apex, 1-veined. Lip united to the column, 4-lobed, bicallose, 3-keeled, central keel running down to the emarginate apex, sometimes with smaller keels at each side; basal lobes semioblique, margin irregular; apical lobes sublinearfalcate, divaricate. Column straight, slender. Cinandrium obsolescent, margin entire. Anther subspherical, 4-celled. Pollinia 4, "bird-wing" type, strongly laterally compressed, transparent, the inside pair somewhat smaller; caudicles soft and smooth, somewhat shorter than the pollinia; viscidium semiliquid, transparent. Rostellum subapical, slit. Lateral stigma lobes about half the length of the stigmatic cavity. Nectary shallow, penetrating only to the base of the perianth.

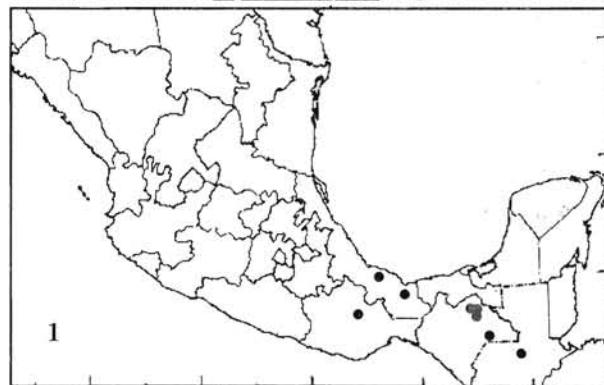
OTHER SPECIMENS: GUATEMALA: Alta Verapaz: Johnson 269, AMES! MEXICO: Chiapas: McCullough & Greenwood sub Hágster 5572, AMO! Thurston [1485] sub Hágster 5028, AMO(x)! ENCB! K! Thurston [1485] sub Hágster 5029, AMES! AMO! BR! Oaxaca: Suárez sub Hágster 5228, AMO! Veracruz: Beaman 6099, MEXU(x)! Dressler sub Hágster 6193, AMO! MEXU! US! XAL! Salazar et al. 2344, AMO! Valdivia 313, XAL! Vázquez & Hernández 3, XAL! Vovides et al. AV-562, XAL!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Mexico (southern Veracruz and northern Oaxaca and Chiapas) and Guatemala (Alta Verapaz). Epiphyte, in tropical rain forest, from 200 to 900 m altitude. Flowering mainly from June to September.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum atroscriptum* belongs to the green-flowered *E. paniculatum* Ruiz & Pav. group, but can be easily recognized by the relatively large flowers which open successively, the basal flowers open when the apical buds are just developing, and the dense, deep purple blotch covering the disc of the lip. *E. veroscriptum* Hágster has simultaneous flowers and the disc usually has a ring of purple spots around the center, or can be either immaculate or have sparse dots. In *E. roseoscriptum* Hágster the flowers are simultaneous, the apical lobes are poorly developed and the disc bears a solid pink-violet blotch, not made up of small dots.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Not threatened. This species is relatively widespread, and although the areas where it grows have been much disturbed, the habitat is unlikely to disappear completely. There is little collecting pressure.

ETYMOLOGY: *Atroscriptum*, from the Greek *atros*, dark, and *scriptum*, written, refers to the dark dot pattern on the disk of the lip, and is related to the better known and more widespread species in Mexico, *E. veroscriptum* Hágster (= *E. scriptum* A. Rich. & Gal., non L.) to which it is closely related.



1

Author: E. Hágster

Illustrator: E. Hágster

Editors: E. Hágster & G. A. Salazar

Herbario de la Asociación Mexicana de Orquideología, A.C.

Apartado Postal 53-123, 11320 México, D.F., MEXICO

Plate 109

ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 2. 1993