

EPIDENDRUM BONITENSE Hágsater & Dodson
Text on the reverse side

EPIDENDRUM BONITENSE Hágsater et Dodson, *sp. nov.*

Holotype: ECUADOR: Sucumbíos: Santa Bárbara, km 61.3 desviación de la carretera Tulcán-Ibarra hacia La Bonita, después de Santa Bárbara, unos 500 m antes del puente, 1990 m, colecta 8 julio 1990, prensado en cultivo 17 octubre 1991, *E. Hágsater 10821*, *C. H. Dodson, D. Rubio y N. Revelo*, QCNE! (illustration voucher.)

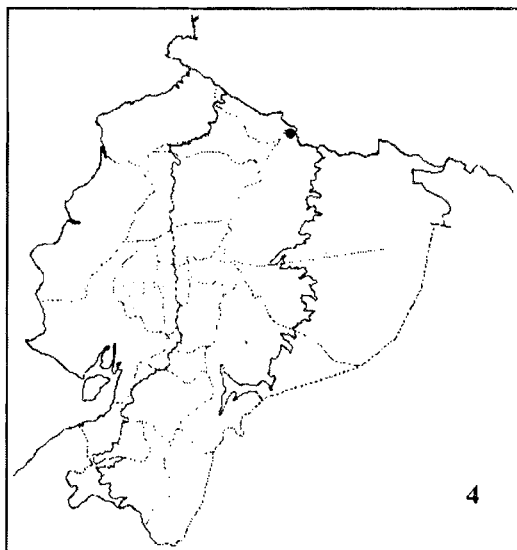
Epidendrum nanopsi Dodson & Hágsater simile, sed differt floribus majoribus, labeli lobo mediano subrectangulari, acuto, anthera viridi, glabra.

Hierba epífita, colgante, 10-30 cm de largo. Raíces filiformes, de la porción basal del tallo principal, 0.5-0.9 mm de grosor. Tallos sencillos, horizontales a colgantes, foliosos cuando jóvenes, lateralmente comprimidos, completamente cubiertos por vainas foliares ancipitosas, evanescentes, 5-25 cm de largo, produciendo tallos nuevos de cerca del ápice o en la parte intermedia del tallo anterior en plantas viejas. Hojas distribuidas a todo lo largo de los tallos, grisáceo-verdosas; vaina tubular, ancipitosa, dilatada hacia el ápice, 8-18 x 4-8 mm; lámina ovada, aguda, algo oblicua, subcoriáceo-suculenta, 28-50 x 8-20 mm. Inflorescencia terminal racemosa, subumbelada, colgante, provista de una bráctea basal semejante a las florales, carinada, ovado-acuminada, 11 x 3.5 mm. Bráctea floral carinada, angostamente ovado-acuminada, algo más corta hasta poco más larga que el ovario, 6-12 x 3.5-6 mm. Flores 5-8, simultáneas, verde glauco con ligeros tintes morados, la antera verde. Ovario inflado ventralmente en los 2/3 apicales, 12 mm de largo. Sépalos obovados, agudos, 4-5-nervados, entreabiertos, los laterales con una quilla dorsal apical erosa, 12 x 5 mm. Pétalos lineares, agudos, entreabiertos, uninervados, 10 x 1 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, trilobado, carnoso, 5 x 5 mm, con dos callos basales globosos; lóbulos laterales oblicuamente ovados, enteros; lóbulo medio subrectangular, dos veces más largo que ancho, agudo. Columna recta, 7 mm de largo. Clinandrio prominente, sobresaliendo ligeramente en el ápice de la columna, eroso. Antera subsférica, glabra, 4-locular. Polinios 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos, caudículas granuladas, de longitud semejante a los polinios; viscidio semilíquido, transparente. Rostelo apical, hendido, amplio. Lóbulos laterales del estigma prominentes. Nectario muy profundo, penetrando 2/3 del ovario. Cápsula no vista.

Epiphytic, hanging herb. Roots filiform, from the basal portion of the main stem. Stems simple, compressed, completely covered by evanescent, ancipitous sheaths, new stems produced from near the apex of the previous one, or from the middle in older plants. Leaves distributed throughout the stem, grayish-green; sheath tubular, ancipitous; blade ovate, acute, somewhat oblique, subcoriaceous-succulent. Inflorescence terminal, racemose, subumbellate, with a carinate basal bract. Flowers 5-8, simultaneous, glaucous green with a faint purple tinge. Ovary inflated ventrally towards the apical 2/3. Sepals obovate, acute, 4-5-veined. Petals linear, acute, 1-veined. Lip united to the column, 3-lobed, fleshy, with 2 basal, globose calli; lateral lobes obliquely ovate; midlobe subrectangular, twice as long as wide, acute. Column straight. Clinandrium slightly protruding at the column apex, erose. Anther subspherical, glabrous, 4-celled. Pollinia 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, with two pairs of granular caudicles, viscidium semiliquid. Rostellum apical, slit. Lateral lobes of the stigma prominent. Nectary deep, penetrating 2/3 of the ovary.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Presently known only from the type locality, but may be more widespread. Epiphyte in wet, well ventilated forests at around 2000 m altitude. Flowering from May to July.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum bonitense* belongs to the *E. nanum* C. Schweinf. group and is closely related to *E. nanopsis* Dodson & Hágsater, from which can be distinguished by the larger flowers (the sepals being 12 mm long), the subrectangular, acute, twice as long as wide lip, and the somewhat different coloring of the anther. *Epidendrum bonitense* was found sympatric with the similar *E. thelephorum* Hágsater & Dodson, which is smaller, with the midlobe of the lip ovate, rounded, and the anther prominently papillose. This group of species has been little studied, and further work in the field will certainly produce other undescribed species. The vegetative habit is that of a caespitose plant which also produces new stems from near the apex of the previous stem, a feature typical of this group of species.



CONSERVATION STATUS: Unknown.

ETYMOLOGY: In reference to the locality where the species was collected, La Bonita, Sucumbíos, Ecuador.

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