Epidendrum (§ Euepidendrum) dilochioides L.O. Williams sp. nov.

Herbae probabiliter caespitosae, epiphyticae, usque ad 3 dm. vel ultra altae. Caulis simplex. Folia elliptica vel elliptico-oblanceolata, obtusa, coriacea. Inflorescentia racemus pauciflorus. Sepala ovato-lanceolata, obtusa, carnosa. Petala late oblanceolata, paulo obliqua, obtusa. Labellum plusminusve orbiculare, trilobatum, bicallosum; lobus medius parvus, inconspicuus, mucroniformis. Columna generis.

Probably caespitose, epiphytic herbs up to 3 dm. or more tall. Stems 5-8 mm. in diameter, unbranched, covered with the old leaf bases. Leaves 6-11 cm. long and 1.5-2.8 cm. broad, elliptic to elliptic-oblanceolate, obtuse, coriaceous, deciduous; leaf-sheaths persisting, finally shredding. Inflorescence a short, few-flowered (about 8-flowered) raceme nearly equalling or shorter than the subtending leaves; bracts 1.5-3 cm. long, 1-2 cm. broad, ovate, acute, chartaceous, navicular, nearly as long as the flowers. Sepals about 11 mm. long and 5 mm. broad, ovate-lanceolate, obtuse, fleshy, with three principal nerves. Petals about 10 mm. long and 4 mm. broad, broadly oblanceolate, somewhat oblique, obtuse with three principal nerves. Lip about 10 mm. long and 11 mm. broad, nearly orbicular in outline, fleshy, 3-lobed, with two small carinae extending from the apex of the

column toward the middle of the lamina; the mid-lobe very small and inconspicuous, hardly more than an obtuse mucro. Column about 4 mm. long, straight, adnate to the lip.

Honduras: "west coast of Honduras," September 1939. Bevan s.n. (Type in Herb. Ames No. 57285).

Epidendrum dilochioides is closely allied to E. estrellense Ames, a Costa Rican species from which it may be distinguished as follows:

Epidendrum dilochioides

Lip not cordate at the base. Floral bracts 15-30 mm. long.

Leaves obtuse.

Lamina of the lip with two carinae which extend only to the

middle.

Epidendrum estrellense

Lip cordate at the base.

Floral bracts about 12 mm.long.

Leaves acute.

Lamina of the lip tricarinate, the middle carina extending to the apex.

The mid-lobe of the lip in both species is very inconspicuous.

The specific name of *Epidendrum dilochioides* is suggested by the resemblance of the floral bracts to those of some species of *Dilochia*.