



EPIDENDRUM GNOMOIDES Hágsater
 THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

EPIDENDRUM GNOMOIDES Hágsater, *sp. nov.*

Type: PERU: Cuzco: Río Marcapata, 60 km above Quincemil, 1910 m, 17 January 1973, *Michael T. Madison 998*. Holotype: AMES! (Illustration voucher).

Epidendro gnomus Schltr. simile sed floribus minoribus, sepalis ovato-ellipticis, petalis oblongis, labello reniformi latiore quam longiore leviter emarginato, nectario elongato discrepans.

Hierba epífita, simpodial, ramificada, rastrera, suberecta, 6-8 cm de largo. **Raíces** de los entrenudos basales del los tallos, delgadas, blancas, 0.2-0.4 mm de grosor. **Tallos** rastreros, en la mitad basal rizomatosa, suberectos hacia el ápice, simpodiales, ramificados, cortos, tipo caña, delgados, arqueados, buscando una posición vertical o por lo menos horizontal, 25-40 x 0.5-1.4 mm. **Hojas** 5-8, distribuidas en la mitad apical del tallo, alternas, articuladas; vaina infundibuliforme, finamente estriada, 3-6 x 1.4-1.8 mm; lámina lanceolada, algunas oblicuas, ápice agudo, con una quilla dorsal diminuta, margen apical diminutamente ciliado, coriácea, succulenta, 0.7-1.4 x 0.2-0.4 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** 1, oblicuamente obovada, redondeada en el ápice, tubular conduplicada, 3-5 x 4-5 mm. **Inflorescencia** apical, uniflora, sésil, suberecta, 1.5-1.9 cm de largo, incluyendo la flor. **Flores** 1, resupinada, de color ocre, de consistencia cerosa; sin datos de fragancia. **Bráctea floral** oculta totalmente dentro de la espata. **Ovario** filiforme en la base, ligeramente inflado hacia el tercio apical, terete, liso, 12 mm de largo. **Sépalos** extendidos, libres, ovado elípticos, subagudos, margen entero, 3.0-3.2 x 1.7-1.8 mm; el **dorsal** 3-nervado; los **laterales** 2-nervados, oblicuos, diminutamente apiculados. **Pétalos** extendidos, libres, oblongos, obtusos, 1-nervados, margen entero, 2.9 x 0.4 mm. **Labelo** unido de manera oblicua a la columna, entero, reniforme, base ligeramente cordada, margen diminutamente eroso ciliado, ápice ligeramente emarginado, 3 x 5 mm; bicalloso, los callos cortos, esféricos, prominentes. **Columna** ligeramente arqueada, oblicua, libre en el 1/2 apical, gruesa, ventralmente provista de un par de alas prominentes no involutas que forman una apertura alta y angostamente subdeltoides, 4 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** prominente, sin rebasar el cuerpo de la columna, en forma de embudo, margen entero. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** ausentes. **Nectario** penetrando ca. 1/3 del ovario, liso, inflado. **Antera** reniforme, 4 locular. **Polinios** 4, lenticulares, semejantes. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, sympodial, branching, creeping, suberect **herb**. **Roots** from the basal internodes of the stems, thin, white. **Stems** sympodial, terete, cane-like, thin, branching, the rhizomatose basal half creeping, suberect thereafter. **Leaves** 5-8, distributed throughout the apical half, alternate, articulate, sheath infundibuliform, minutely striated; blade lanceolate, sometimes oblique, apex acute, with a minute dorsal keel, apical margin minutely ciliate, coriaceous-succulent. **Spathaceous bract** 1, obliquely obovate, rounded at the apex, tubular-conduplicate. **Inflorescence** apical, one-flowered, sessile, suberect. **Flower** 1, resupinate, ochre-colored, waxy. **Floral bract** hidden within the spathaceous bract. **Ovary** filiform at the base, inflated towards the apical half, terete, smooth. **Sepals** spreading, free, ovate-elliptic, subacute, margin entire; **dorsal** 3-veined, **laterals** 2-veined, oblique, minutely apiculate. **Petals** spreading, free, oblong, apex obtuse, 1-veined, margin entire. **Lip** obliquely united to the column, entire, reniform, base slightly cordate, margin minutely erose-ciliate, apex slightly emarginate; bicallose, the calli short, spherical, prominent. **Column** slightly arched, oblique, the apical half free, thick, ventrally with a pair of non-involute wings that form a high, narrow, deltoid aperture. **Clinandrium hood** prominent, without surpassing the body of the column, funnel-shaped, margin entire. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating about 1/3 of the ovary, inflated, smooth. **Anther** reniform, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, lentil-shaped, subequal.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from southeastern Peru, from the eastern slopes of the Andes, along the banks of the Río Marcapata, an affluent of the Madre de Dios River, below Marcapata, at 1910 m altitude. Flowering in January.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum gnomoides* belongs to the Nanodes Group, characterized by the usually small, creeping plants, fleshy succulent leaves, wide-oblique spathaceous bract and solitary or few-flowered, with a fleshy, often shiny, showy lip. The new species is very small, the leaves up to 14 mm long, the ochre flowers 12 mm tall, with ovate-elliptic sepals, and a wide, reniform lip, and an elongate inflated vesicle. *Epidendrum gnomus* has somewhat larger flowers, about 17 mm tall, an ovate lip, longer than wide, a short, nectary forming a globose vesicle near the apex of the ovary, and ovate-triangular sepals. *Epidendrum mathewsii* Rchb. f. which also grows in the region has larger plants, flowers about 20 mm tall, with the lip reniform, convex, 3-keeled with entire margins, and a relatively thin, elongate vesicle.



CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *gnomus* a dwarf, and the ending *-oideum*, resemblance, in reference to the resemblance between this species and *Epidendrum gnomus*.