

EPIDENDRUM GYMNOPODUM Hágsater  
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

*EPIDENDRUM GYMNOPODUM* Hágsater, sp. nov.

Type: PANAMA: Darién: Parque Nacional del Darién Ridge between N & S branches of Río Púculo, across river from old Kuna village of Tacarcuna; ca. 18 km E of Púculo, 8°04' N 77°16' W, 600-1000 m, 21 October 1987, *B. Hammel, G. de Nevers, H. Cuadros & H. Herrera 16342*. Holotype: MO! (Illustration voucher).

*Epidendro phyllocharis* Rchb.f. simile sed foliis longis angustis et acutis, inflorescentia laterali gracili, non omnino cum bracteis imbricatis tegenti, labello trilobato recedens.

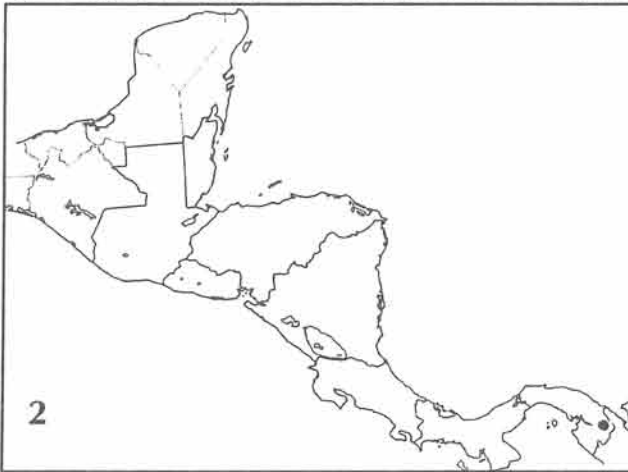
Hierba epífita, simpodial, cespitosa, de 130 cm de alto. Raíces basales, carnosas, delgadas, blancas, 0.6-2.3 mm de grosor. Tallos sencillos, tipo caña, teretes, delgados, rectos, 130 x 0.34-0.65 cm. Hojas ca. 35, distribuidas en la mitad apical del tallo, articuladas, alternas, gradualmente más pequeñas hacia el ápice; vaina tubular, finamente estriada, verrugosa, 17-42 x 3.4-6.5 mm; lámina lanceolada, acuminada, subcoriácea, margen entero, ligeramente revuelto, 8-18 x 0.7-2.0 cm. Bráctea espatácea ausente. Inflorescencias laterales, numerosas, racemosas, 1.5-2.0 cm de largo; pedúnculo terete, delgado, corto, 6-9 mm de largo; generalmente desnudo, en ocasiones con 3 brácteas tubulares, imbricadas, redondeadas, de 2-3 mm de largo. Brácteas florales mucho más cortas que el ovario; triangulares, agudas, abrazadoras, 3-4 mm de largo. Flores 4-5 por racimo, sucesivas, resupinadas, blancas; sin datos de fragancia. Ovario terete, delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado, 17 mm de largo. Sépalos libres, extendidos, agudos, margen entero, 14.5 x 3.5 mm; el dorsal oblanceolado, 3-nervado; los laterales oblongos, oblicuos, 5-nervados. Pétalos libres, entreabiertos, linear espatulados, unguiculados, ápice redondeado, 1-nervados, margen entero, 13 x 1.7 mm. Labelo unido a la columna, trilobado, cordado, margen irregular eroso, 7.2 x 8.7 mm; bicarilloso, los callos, laminares, ligeramente divaricados en el ápice; disco provisto de tres quillas lisas, delgadas, subagudas, que se desvanecen antes de llegar al ápice del lóbulo medio, con un par de protuberancias esféricas diminutas y con una protuberancia laminar muy corta, al lado de los callos; lóbulos laterales semioblicuos, 4.2 x 5.5 mm; lóbulo medio anchamente romboide, ápice anchamente emarginado, con un apículo diminuto en el seno, 3.0 x 3.7 mm. Columna arqueada a los 2/3 apicales, delgada en sus 2/3 basales, 10 mm de largo. Clinandrio corto, margen entero. Antera no vista. Polinios no vistos. Rostelo apical, hendido. Lóbulos laterales del estigma prominentes, de 1/3 del largo de la cavidad estigmática. Nectario penetrando la 1/2 del ovario, delgado, no inflado, liso. Cápsula no vista.

Epiphytic, sympodial, caespitose herb. Roots basal, fleshy, thin. Stem simple, cane-like, terete, straight. Leaves ca. 35, distributed throughout the apical half of the stem, articulate, alternate, gradually smaller; sheath tubular, minutely striated and verrucose; blade lanceolate, acuminate, margin entire, slightly revolute, subcoriaceous. Inflorescence lateral, numerous, racemose, short; peduncle terete, thin, short, usually bare, sometimes with 3 short, tubular, rounded, imbricating bracts. Floral bracts much shorter than the ovary, triangular, acute. Flowers 4-5 per raceme, successive, resupinate, white. Ovary terete, thin. Sepals free, spreading, acute, margin entire; the dorsal oblanceolate, 3-veined; the laterals oblong, oblique, 5-veined. Petals free, partly spreading, linear-spathulate, unguiculate, apex rounded, 1-veined, margin entire. Lip united to the column, 3-lobed, cordate, margin irregular-erose; bicarillose, the calli laminar, the apex divaricate; disc provided with 3 smooth, laminar keels, which disappear before reaching the apex of the midlobe, with a pair of minute spherical bulges and a laminar bulge on each side of the calli; lateral lobes semiobicular; midlobe widely rhomboid, the apex widely emarginate and minutely apiculate in the sinus. Column arching at the apical 2/3, thin below. Clinandrium hood short, margin entire. Nectary penetrating half the ovary, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: None seen.

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Known only from eastern Panama, on the border with Colombia, on the ridge of the Darien Range, growing epiphytic, between 600 and 1000 m altitude. Flowering in October.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum gymnopodum* belongs to the Allenii Group, Albertii Subgroup which is characterized by the caespitose habit, with numerous, purple-colored leaves, the laterally flattened stems with apical and lateral inflorescences, the apical one with an acicpitose peduncle terminating in a conduplicate spathaceous bract somewhat larger but similar to the floral bracts, and one to several racemes of imbricating, conduplicate, rounded, bracts which produce one flower at a time. The species is recognized by the long, narrow leaves, sessile lateral inflorescences with a very thin and short peduncle, usually bare, but sometimes with short, rounded, imbricating bracts, the long, narrow, spreading tepals, and the 3-lobed lip, with an erose margin, the column long, thin and arching at the apical 2/3 point, the flowers white. It is very similar florally to *Epidendrum phyllocharis* which has shorter, wider leaves, the peduncle of the inflorescence completely covered by imbricating bracts, and the entire, cordiform, truncate-truncate, more or less hexagonal lip with an entire margin, the flowers white or cream tinged with pinkish bronze. *Epidendrum hexagonum* Hágsater & Dodson has the same general characters, but the plants and flowers are green and larger. *Epidendrum albertii* Schltr. Also has large flowers, but the lip is acute, entire. *Epidendrum ingramii* Hágsater & García-Cruz has acuminate floral bracts, and an acuminate lip, the flowers greenish tinged with purple. *Epidendrum brachypodum* Hágsater has a sessile apical inflorescence and sepals and petals twice as wide, the sepals elliptic, the petals spatulate-obtrullate with the lateral veins branched from the base.



CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek γυμνος- naked, unclad, and ποδιον- foot, in reference to the bare peduncle of the lateral inflorescence, which characterizes this species. Most species in this Group have the peduncle completely covered by imbricating bracts.

Author: E. Hágsater

Illustrator: M. López R.

Editors: E. Hágsater & L. Sánchez S.

Herbario AMO Apartado Postal 53-123, 11320 México, D.F., MÉXICO

ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 7. 2004. Plate 741