



***ELLEANTHUS HIRTZII***

Dodson

8. **ELLEANTHUS HIRTZII** Dodson, sp. nov.

Orig. coll.: Ecuador: Imbabura: Road Cachaco to Santa Rosa de Cachaco, at km 8 on road from Lita to Ibarra, then 8 km South and up old trail to Río Verde, 1400 m, 30 December 1990, *Dodson, Neudecker & Herzog 18646* (RPSC holotype, QCNE).

**OTHER SPECIMENS SEEN:** Ecuador: Imbabura: Road Cachaco to Santa Rosa de Cachaco, at km 8 on road from Lita to Ibarra, then 8 km South and up old trail to Río Verde, 1400 m, 19 January 1987, *Dodson, C. & J. Luer, Hirtz, & Benzing 16876* (RPSC).

*Accedit ad Elleanthum lateralem* Garay ob caules fertiles saepe foliis destitutos sed differt ab eo floribus viridibus, ovariis multo superantibus bracteas florales, callis approximatis, absentia carinae transversae in apice cavitatis labelli et absentia cucullae supra antheram.

**ETIMOLOGIA:** Dedicada al Ing. Alex Hirtz quien colectó el espécimen tipo y quien ha contribuido substancialmente al conocimiento de las orquídeas ecuatorianas con sus extensas colectas y sus excelentes fotografías.

**ETYMOLOGY:** Dedicated to Ing. Alex Hirtz who collected the type specimen and has contributed substantially to the knowledge of the Ecuadorian orchids with his extensive collections and excellent photographs.

Plants epiphytic, to 35 cm tall. Roots fasciculate, flexuose, pilose. Stems canelike, arcuate, elongate, slender, unbranched, the basal half leafless, few-sheathed, the apical half with 5 to 7 leaves or if fertile, commonly with 1 or 2 reduced leaves, or without leaves. Leaves thin, plicate, 7-veined, distichous, narrowly ovate, acuminate, sessile, to 15 x 2.4 cm. Inflorescence terminal on leafless stems or with one or two reduced leaves toward the apex, cylindrical, subdensely many-flowered. Bracts cymbiform, acute, shorter than the ovaries, to 1 cm long, pinkish when young, turning green with anthesis. Flowers green, lip with a whitish margin. Dorsal sepal oblong, acute, to 7 x 3 mm; lateral sepals obliquely ovate, acuminate, not carinate toward the apex, concave at the base, to 8 x 4 mm. Petals narrowly ovate, acuminate, margins entire, to 7 x 3 mm.

Lip subglobose, ventricose at the base containing a pair of globose, approximate corpuscles located at the very base of the cavity, the apex of the cavity slightly thickened to form a transverse ridge, the lamina of the lip broader than long, subtrilobed, truncate across the apex, irregularly denticulate, to 8 x 12 mm. Column slender, to 7 mm long, not hooding the anther. Ovary cylindrical, glabrous, to 15 mm long.

**NOTAS:** Esta especie es similar a *E. lateralis* Garay en el carácter a menudo áfilo de los tallos fértiles, pero se distingue por las flores verdes, porque los ovarios exceden ampliamente las brácteas florales, por los callos apretadamente aproximados, la falta de una cresta transversal prominente en el ápice de la cavidad del labio, y la falta de un capuchón que cubra la antera.

**NOTES:** This species is similar to *E. lateralis* Garay in the often leafless character of the fertile stems but is distinguished by the green flowers, the ovaries much exceeding the floral bracts, the closely approximate calli, the lack of a prominent, transverse ridge at the apex of the cavity of the lip and the lack of a hood covering the anther.