

EPIDENDRUM ACROAMPAROANUM Hágsater & L.Sánchez  
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 5

*EPIDENDRUM ACROAMPAROANUM* Hágsater et L.Sánchez, *sp. nov.*

Type: COSTA RICA: San José: Cantón de Dota: Cordillera de Talamanca, Copey, Cerro Vueltas, 9°37'40"N 83°51'10"W, 3150 m, 21 March 1995, *J. Francisco Morales 4737*. Holotype: MO! (Illustration voucher).

*Epidendrum vulgoamparoano* Hágsater & L.Sánchez simile sed caulibus lateraliter compressis, sepalis petalisque 5-nervatis, labello trapezoidale manifeste trilobato, lobulis lateralibus subrectangularibus, lobulo medio bilobato, differt.

**Hierba** epífita, simpodial, cespitosa, 20-22 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, carnosas delgadas. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, teretes en la base, algo lateralmente comprimidos hacia el ápice, 16 x 0.25-0.30 cm. **Hojas** 9, equidistantes a lo largo del tallo; vaina foliar lateralmente comprimida, no ornamentada, 1.3-2.3 cm de largo; lámina elíptica a ovada, ápice asimétricamente bilobado, no ornamentada, carina dorsal baja, margen entero, verde, 4.5-8 x 1.5-2.5 cm. **Bráctea espátacea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, en el tallo maduro, florece una sola vez, cortamente pedunculada, pedúnculo terete, liso, 7 mm de largo. **Bráctea floral** mucho más pequeña que el ovario, triangular, aguda, 8-10 x 3-3.5 mm. **Flores** 5-6, simultáneas, resupinadas, verdes claro; fragancia no registrada. **Ovario** inflado, terete, no ornamentado, 22 x 3.2 mm. **Sépalos** libres, extendidos, glabros, subcoriáceos, angostamente oblongo elípticos, ápice redondeado, 5-nervados, margen entero, extendido; el **dorsal** 28 x 5 mm; los **laterales** oblicuos, 28.5 x 5.5 mm. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, angostamente rómbicos, agudos, 5-nervados, margen entero, extendido, 25.5 x 4.5 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trapezoide, trilobado, base profundamente cordada, margen ligeramente ondulado, 21 x 32 mm; bicalloso, los callos pequeños, subglobosos, disco con numerosas venas radiales engrosadas en la base y una central más gruesa la cual se prolonga hasta cerca del ápice; lóbulos laterales subrectangulares; lóbulo medio corto, ancho, bilobado, los lóbulos semiorbiculares. **Columna** recta, gruesa, 12.3 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** prominente, entero, margen dentado. **Antera** no vista. **Polinios** no vistos. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** penetrando 2/3 de la longitud del ovario, no inflado, no ornamentado. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, sympodial, caespitose herb. **Roots** basal, fleshy, thin. **Stems** simple, cane-like, terete at the base, somewhat laterally compressed above. **Leaves** 9, distributed throughout the stem, sheath laterally compressed, smooth; blade elliptic to ovate, apex unequally bilobed, smooth, dorsal keel low, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, from the mature stem, flowering only once, peduncle short, terete, smooth. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, triangular, acute. **Flowers** 5-6, simultaneous, resupinate, light green. **Ovary** inflated, terete, smooth. **Sepals** free, spreading, glabrous, subcoriaceous, narrowly oblong-elliptic, rounded, 5-veined, margin entire, spreading, the lateral sepals oblique. **Petals** partly spreading, narrowly rhombic, acute, 5-veined, margin entire, spreading. **Lip** united to the column, trapezoid, 3-lobed, base deeply cordate, margin slightly undulate; bicallose, the calli small, subglobose, disc with numerous thickened, radiating veins at the base, and a thickened central keel prolonged nearly to the apical sinus; lateral lobes subrectangular; midlobe short, wide, bilobed, the lobes semiorbicular. **Column** straight, thick. **Clinandrium**-hood prominent, entire, margin dentate. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating 2/3 the perianth, not inflated, unornamented.

**OTHER SPECIMENS:** None seen.

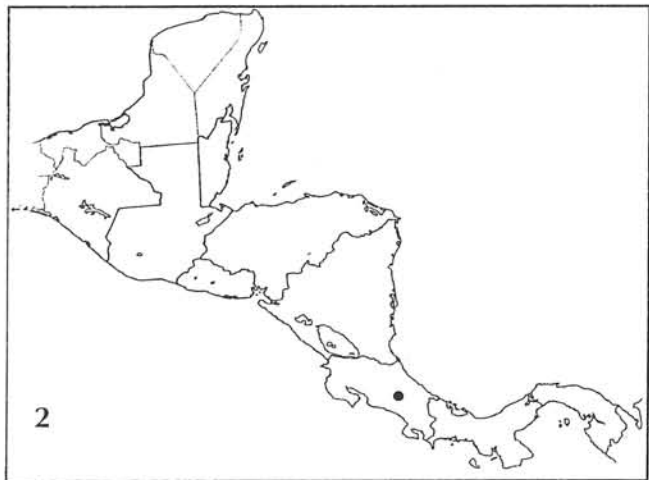
**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Known only from higher elevations on the Cordillera de Talamanca, in elfin forest. Epiphyte at 3150 m. Flowering in March.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum acroamparoanum* belongs to the Difforme Group which is characterized by the caespitose, sympodial plants, fleshy, pale green to glaucous leaves, apical inflorescence, sessile, rarely with a short peduncle, one-flowered to corymbose, without spathaceous bracts, fleshy, green to yellowish-green rarely white flowers. The species has pale green flowers, oblong-elliptic, 5-veined sepals, narrowly rhombic, 5-veined petals, a clearly 3-lobed, trapezoid, bicallose lip, the disc with basally thickened, radiating veins, the lateral lobes of the lip subrectangular with the margin undulate, the midlobe bilobed, the lobes semiorbicular. It is similar to *Epidendrum vulgoamparoanum* which grows in dry, Pacific lowland forests in Costa Rica and Panama, from sea level to 500 m altitude, and has 7-veined sepals, 3-veined petals, and the lip obscurely 3-lobed, the lateral lobes semiorbicular, and the midlobe obscurely bilobed. *Epidendrum yojoaense* Hágsater & L.Sánchez grows in wet rainforests of the Atlantic slope in Honduras at 600-700 m altitude, and has glaucous-green leaves and flowers, 7-veined-sepals, 3-veined petals, and a reniform lip. *Epidendrum barbayanum* Kraenzl. grows in seasonally dry forests in Costa Rica and Panama (Chiriquí) at 800-1800 m altitude and has ancipitose stems, 7-veined sepals, 3-veined petals, flabelliform lateral lobes of the lip, with the midlobe shorter than the lateral lobes and separated by deep sinuses, and forms two divergent triangular to subrectangular, acute to rounded lobes, and a reduced, entire clinandrium-

hood. *Epidendrum romero-castenedae* Hágsater & L.Sánchez grows on the inland slopes along the Gulf of Darien in eastern Panama and northern Colombia, from 10 to 700 m altitude, and has 7-veined sepals, narrowly elliptic, 3-veined petals, and the lateral lobes of the lip semiorbicular, the midlobe short, emarginate, forming two small lobes with a central mucro.

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD. Data deficient.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek ακρος, summit, and *amparoanum*, in reference to the similarity of this species with *E. vulgoamparoanum*, the species previous known as *E. amparoanum*, and the fact that it is the species of that group which is found at the highest elevation in Costa Rica, at the edge of paramos.



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