

EPIDENDRUM ALFONSOPOZOI Hágsater & Dodson  
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

*EPIDENDRUM ALFONSOPOZOI* Hágsater et Dodson, sp. nov.

Type: ECUADOR: Azuay: West of km 69 on the Cuenca-Loja road, 2650 m, 30 November 1984, C. H. Dodson & Benigno Malo Vega 15491. Holotype QCNE! Isotypes: QCA! RPSC! (Illustration voucher).

*Epidendro jativae* Dodson simile sed floribus resupinatis spiraliter dispositis, aurantiaco-ochraceis et rubro-maculatis, sepalis 4 mm longis, labello integro cordiformi et columna 2 mm longa differt.

**Hierba** epífita, no ramificada, de más de 46 cm de alto. **Raíces** en el tallo inicial no vistas, escasas en la base de los tallos sucesivos, carnosas, delgadas, 1.6-2.4 mm de grosor. **Tallos** originándose del entrenudo apical del tallo anterior, tipo caña, teretes, delgados, rectos, el inicial no visto, los sucesivos, 10-39 x 0.13-0.28 cm. **Hojas** 6-16, distribuidas a lo largo del tallo, las basales generalmente caedizas, alternas, subcoriáceas, suberectas; vaina tubular finamente estriada cuando seca, las apicales teñidas de púrpura intenso, 1.4-2.4 x 0.13-0.28 cm; lámina linear lanceolada, ápice obtuso, bilobado, margen entero, lisa, [1.5]3.5-6.3 x 0.32-0.8[1.0] cm. **Bráctea espátacea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, florece una sola vez, racemosa, subumbeliforme, ligeramente arqueada, 2.3 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, terete, delgado, liso, 8 mm de largo; provisto en la parte media basal de 2 brácteas semejantes a las florales, angostamente triangulares, acuminadas, 3-6 mm de largo; raquis terete, delgado, recto, 1.5 cm de largo. **Brácteas florales** cerca de la mitad del largo que el ovario, gradualmente más pequeñas hacia el ápice, angostamente triangulares, acuminadas, 2-4 mm de largo. **Flores** 22, simultáneas, resupinadas, dispuestas en espiral a lo largo del raquis, color anaranjado ocre, columna y disco rojo borgoña, sin fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, no inflado, liso, 7 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, elípticos, ápice redondeado, 3-nervados, margen entero, carnosos, 4 x 2.4 mm. **Pétalos** extendidos, libres, oblongos, subagudos, carnosos, 1-nervado, margen diminutamente eroso, extendido, 3.8 x 0.6 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, entero, cordiforme, cordado en la base, algo cóncavo, margen ligeramente sinuoso, borde diminutamente papiloso, 2.5 x 3 mm; escalo, con tres quillas romas, lisas, la laterales cortas, divaricadas, la central desvaneciéndose antes de llegar al ápice del labelo. **Columna** recta, gruesa, ventralmente provista de un par de alas rectas gradualmente dilatadas hacia el ápice, no involutas, 2 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Antera** 4-locular, reniforme. **Polinios** 4, obovoides. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** sin traspasar el perianto, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, branching herb. **Roots** few, from the base of the stems, thick. **Stems** originating from apical internode of the previous stem, cane-like, terete, thin, straight. **Leaves** 6-16, distributed throughout of the stem, the lower ones deciduous, subcoriaceous, suberect; sheath tubular, minutely striated when dry, the apical ones purple-tinged; blade linear-lanceolate, apex obtuse, bilobed, margin entire, smooth. **Inflorescence** apical, flowering only once, racemose, subumbellate, somewhat arched; peduncle short, terete, thin, with two bracts near the base, similar to the floral bracts; rachis terete, thin, straight. **Floral bracts** about half as long as the ovary to shorter, narrowly triangular, acuminate. **Flowers** 22, simultaneous, resupinate, spirally disposed on the rachis, orange-ochre, column and disc burgundy red, not fragrant. **Ovary** terete, thin, not inflated, smooth. **Sepals** partly spreading, free, elliptic, apex rounded, 3-veined, margin entire, fleshy. **Petals** spreading, free, oblong, subacute, 1-veined, fleshy, margin minutely erose, extended. **Lip** united to the column, entire, cordiform, base cordate, somewhat concave, margin slightly sinuose, border minutely papillose, ecallose, with three keels, rounded, smooth, the lateral ones short, divaricate, the central one disappearing before the apex of the lip. **Column** straight, thick, provided ventrally with a pair of straight wings gradually dilated towards the apex, not involute. **Clinandrium** hood reduced, entire. **Anther** 4-celled, reniform. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** not penetrating the ovary, smooth.

**OTHER SPECIMENS:** ECUADOR: Azuay: Collected in the Garden of Alfonso Pozo, originally from Oña, 20 XI 1988, Dodson 17718, RPSC! Río Dircay, hort. Alfonso Pozo, Cuenca, 20 XI 1988, Hágsater 9595, AMO! Hort. Ecuagenera, pressed 8 III 2003, Hágsater 73845, AMO! El Oro: Chilla to Antennas, 3100 m, 20 XI 1996, Lewis 2851, LOJA! Loja: Chilla, track Antennas and páramo, 3100 m, 7 XI 1997, Lewis 3698, LOJA! QCNE! (illustration, AMO!) Vicinity of Zaragura, 27 IX 1918, Rose 23139, AMES! NY! US!

**OTHER RECORDS:** ECUADOR: Azuay: hort. Ecuagenera, Hirtz 7799, slide, AMO!

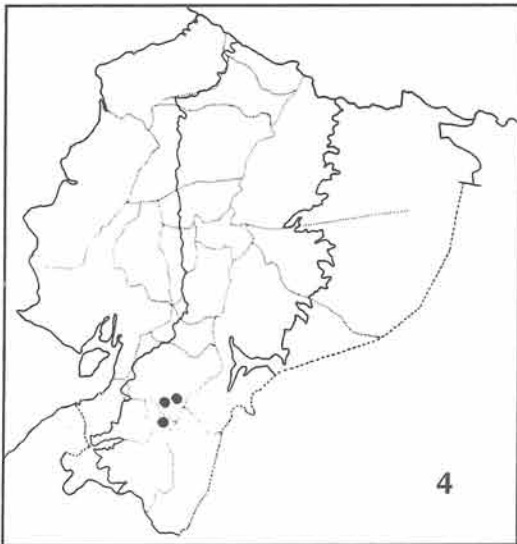
**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Known only from Ecuador, from the province of Azuay bordering on Loja, in the interandean valley at 2650-3100 m altitude. Often growing on sheer rock faces with *Tillandsia tectorum* Morren, and in old trees. Flowering in September to March.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum alfonsopozoi* belongs to the *Diothonea* Group and Subgroup which is characterized by the branching plants, linear lanceolate to oblong, bilobed leaves, racemose, arching-nutant inflorescence, membranaceous flowers (rarely fleshy), the entire to 3-lobed, ecallose lip with the margin erose, without or with 1-10 thin, smooth to erose keels, the column completely to obliquely united to the lip, the anther reniform. The new species is recognized by the resupinate, orange-ochre marked with burgundy-red flowers, sepals 4 mm long, with a cordiform lip, 2.5 x 3 mm, with three keels, and a straight column, 2 mm long. It is similar to *Epidendrum jativae* Dodson which has non-resupinate, green to purplish brown flowers, sepals 6 mm long, the lip 7 x 8 mm, three-

lobed with the midlobe bilobed, column 5 mm long. *Epidendrum microdiothoneum* Hágsater & Dodson has an arched column, resupinate, greenish yellow to brownish purple flowers, sepals 6-7 mm long, lip three-lobed, 7 x 6 mm, and ovary thickened ventrally along the apical 2/3<sup>rd</sup> column 3 mm long.

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD. Data deficient. Apparently locally common in an area where few orchids are expected.

**ETYMOLOGY:** In honor of Alfonso Pozo V. of Cuenca, who first shared this species with the authors.



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