

*EPIDENDRUM DARIENSE* Hágsater, Kolan. & L.Sánchez

Plate 1421

**EPIDENDRUM DARIENSE** Hágsater, Kolan. et L.Sánchez, *sp. nov.*

Type: PANAMA: Prov.: Darién: About 10 km from Pavarandó, about 150-200 m, 29 March 2012, *Marta Kolanowska 410*.

Holotype: AMO! (Illustration voucher, digital images) Isotype: UGDA (flower in spirit)!

Similar to *Epidendrum hunterianum* Schltr. but the plants small, ovary terete, flowers produced in succession, one at a time, small, lip ovate-cordiform, calli small, laminar, disc with three central ribs reaching the apex, and several radiating, thickened, veins covering the disc of the lip.

Epiphytic, sympodial, caespitose, erect **herb**, ca. 19 cm tall. **Roots** 0.5-0.8 mm in diameter, basal, filiform. **Stems** 15 x 0.3-0.4 cm, simple, cane-like, terete at base, laterally compressed above, ancipitose, flexuous. **Leaves** 3-4, distributed throughout the stem; foliar sheath 2-3 cm long, ancipitose, smooth; blade 8-12 x 2.5-2.7 cm, elliptic-lanceolate, apex bilobed, sub-coriaceous, smooth, green, margin entire. **Spathaceous bract** absent. **Inflorescence** apical, from the mature stem, flowering only once, sessile. **Flowers** up to 3, successive, produced one at a time, resupinate, green; fragrance not registered. **Ovary** 36 x 3.2 mm, forming a ventral vesicle behind the perianth, occupying the apical 2/3 of the ovary, terete, unornamented. **Sepals** free, spreading, glabrous, lanceolate, acute, sub-coriaceous, 7-veined, margin entire, spreading; dorsal sepal 38 x 6.5, somewhat cucullate, lateral sepals 36 x 4.5 mm. **Petals** 30 x 4.2 mm, free, partly spreading (diffuse), glabrous, narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, acute, 5-veined, membranaceous, margin entire, spreading. **Lip** 17 x 16 mm, united to the column, base cordate, recurved in natural position, entire, ovate-cordiform, apex obtuse, rounded, margin entire; bicallose, calli small, laminar; disc with 3 central ribs prolonged to the apex of the lip, and several radiating, thickened veins on the disc. **Column** 11 mm long, conical, progressively dilated towards the apex. **Clinandrium-hood** prominent, funnel-shaped, entire, margin erose. **Anther** sub-reniform, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, laterally compressed; caudicles granulose, somewhat longer than the pollinia. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** deep, penetrating somewhat beyond the middle of the ovary. **Lateral lobes of the stigma** and **column** not seen.

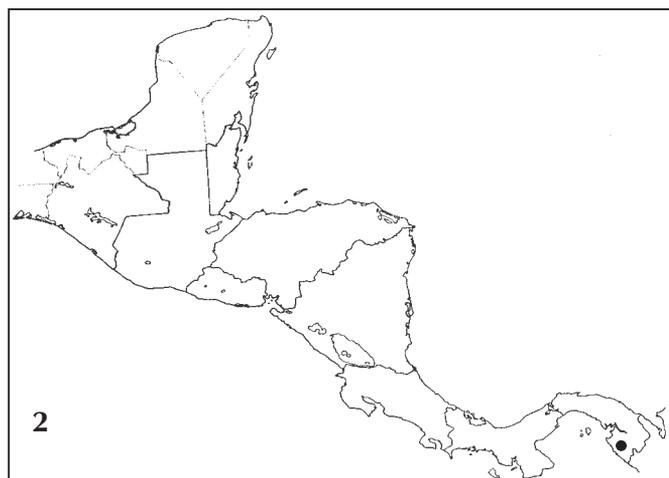
**OTHER SPECIMENS:** None seen.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** This species is known so far only from the type locality. The small population of few specimens was found growing epiphytically on the small branch of the fallen tree in the wet lowland forest. About 150-200 m altitude. Flowering in March.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum dariense* 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 to many-flowered and then corymbose, without spathaceous bracts, fleshy, green to yellowish-green rarely white flowers. The species is recognized by the small (19 cm tall) plants, stems laterally compressed, ancipitose, successive flowers, produced one at a time, ovary terete, with an elongate swollen ventral vesicle occupying the apical 2/3 of the ovary, lip entire, ovate-cordiform, recurved in natural position, with 3 parallel ribs running down the entire length and additional radiating thickened veins covering the disc. It is similar to *Epidendrum hunterianum*, native to the Atlantic lowlands of Costa Rica and Panama, has tall (25-38 cm) erect stems, 5-8 leaves, a triquetrous ovary with a ventral vesicle occupying the apical 1/4 of the ovary, 4-6 simultaneous, smaller flowers (sepals 16-17 mm long), lip without thickened veins or ribs. *Epidendrum pendens* L.O.Williams is pendant, growing at 800-1000 m in Costa Rica and Panama, has taller, many-leaved (8-12) stems (29-56 cm), apical and lateral inflorescences with 1, rarely 2, simultaneous, large, gray-green flowers (sepals 50-53 mm long), un-inflated ovary, and a 3-lobed lip with numerous thickened veins covering the disc. Other species with a swollen vesicle behind the perianth and thickened veins are *Epidendrum platytilum* Schltr., endemic to Ecuador with wide leaves (2.3-3.4 cm), 1-2 simultaneous, large flowers (sepals 35-40 mm long), and a fimbriate clinandrium-hood. *Epidendrum kerryae* Hágsater & L.Sánchez is found in the lowlands of western Colombia and Ecuador, has 42 cm tall erect stems with 3-11 leaves, 1-2-simultaneous flowers, a triquetrous ovary, and the disc of the lip with only central, somewhat thickened ribs. Other species of the Difforme Group with thickened veins on the lip include *Epidendrum vulgoamparoanum* Hágsater & L.Sánchez, *E. acroamparoanum* Hágsater & L.Sánchez, *E. romero-castannedae* Hágsater & L.Sánchez, and *E. yojoaense* Hágsater & L.Sánchez, but have simultaneous flowers, a 3-lobed lip and do not have a swollen vesicle in the ovary.

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD: Data deficient. Known only from the type specimen.

**ETYMOLOGY:** In reference to the Province of Darien, in south-eastern Panama, where the species has been collected.



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