



***EPIDENDRUM NEUDECKERI***  
Dodson & Hágsater

14. **EPIDENDRUM NEUDECKERI** Dodson & Hágsater, sp. nov.

Orig. coll.: Ecuador: Esmeraldas: Lita to San Lorenzo, km 18, 850 m, 28 December 1990, *Dodson, Neudecker, Volles, & Herzum 18587* (RPSC holotype).

**OTHER SPECIMENS SEEN:** Ecuador: Esmeraldas: Lita to San Lorenzo, km 40, 250 m, October 1991, *Hirtz et al. 5615* (RPSC).

Simile *Epidendri piperini* Lindl. quoad flores sed planta erecta caulibus arundinaceis.

**ETIMOLOGIA:** Llamada en honor del Dr. Tilman Neudecker, alemán y maestro cultivador de orquídeas, quien participó en la colecta del tipo.

**ETYMOLOGY:** Named in honor of Dr. Tilman Neudecker, German master orchid grower, who participated in the collection of the type.

Terrestrial on road embankment or more typically epiphytic. Rhizome short, stems erect, cane-like, terete, surrounded by imbricating distichous leaf-sheaths, often branching toward the upper portion in large plants, to 1 m tall. Leaves narrowly oblong-elliptic, acute at the apex, united to and articulated with the apex of the sheath at the base, to 8 x 2 cm. Inflorescence apical, about equal to the apical leaves, racemose or paniculate, not surrounded at the base by spathe-like sheaths, with 2 or 3 loosely fitted inflorescence sheaths, inflorescence compact with 3 to 7 flowers produced simultaneously, the floral bracts small, triangular, to 2 mm long; ovary terete, to 1 cm long, erect with the column and lip twisted downward. Flowers green with a whitish lip; sepals free; dorsal sepal oblong, obtuse, concave, held strictly erect with the petals, to 23 x 2.5 mm; lateral sepals connivent with the lip, oblong elliptic, concave, to 20 x 3 mm; petals linear, to 18 x 1 mm; lip fleshy, broadly ovate, deeply concave, attached to and surrounding the apex of the lower side of the column, the blade to 10 x 12 mm; column and lip tipped downward from the apex of the ovary, the column terete, to 8 mm long.

**NOTAS:** Esta especie tiene flores muy parecidas a las *Epidendrum piperinum* Lindl. o *Epidendrum troxalis* Luer pero el hábito de la planta es muy diferente con tallos cañizos rígidos y erectos, mucho más largos que las hojas, y una inflorescencia racemosa hasta paniculada.

**NOTES:** This species has flowers that are very similar to those of *Epidendrum piperinum* Lindl. or *Epidendrum troxalis* Luer but the plant habit is very different with stiffly-erect, cane-like stems, much larger leaves, and a racemose to paniculate inflorescence.