

ORCHIDACEAE QUAEDAM AMERICANAE

Epidendrum Steinbachii *Ames sp. nov.* Caules alti, rigidi, ramosissimi, dense foliosi. Flores in racemis brevibus dispositi. Sepala ligulata. Petala lineari-spathulata. Labellum ellipticum, bicallosum. Columna gracilis.

In general habit similar to *Epidendrum soratae* Reichb. f. Roots fibrous, smooth, branched. Stems 5 (-10) dm. high, about 5 mm. thick near the base, copiously branched; branches 2 cm. apart, 2-6 cm. long, obliquely ascending, divaricately branched near the end, rather closely beset with rigid leaves. Leaves 1.2-3 cm. long, 2-3.5 mm. wide, narrowly oblong, deciduous from subcylindrical sheaths, distichous, about 6 mm. apart, sulcate above, carinate beneath, the terminal one of each branch equalling or exceeding the raceme. Racemes terminal, 3-4-flowered, about 1 cm. long. Pedicel with the ovary 4 mm. long. Floral bracts about 2 mm. long, oblong, tapering to a subacute apex. Flowers yellowish, column stained with purple. Lateral sepals 6 mm. long, asymmetrically oblanceolate-apiculate from a broad base, carinate near the upper margin, strongly concave at the tip. Dorsal sepal 6 mm. long, oblong-ligulate, subacute, 3-nerved.

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Petals about 6 mm. long, linear-spatulate, hardly .5 mm. wide near the tip. Labellum simple, obscurely apiculate, adnate to the column, expanded part 3 mm. long, 4 mm. wide, transversely elliptical, fleshy, many-nerved, with two minute rounded confluent calli at base beneath the summit of the column. Column slender, 5 mm. long, anther simple.

Closely allied to *Epidendrum soratae* Reichb. f. which it resembles in habit, but from which it is distinct in having a simple, obscurely apiculate lip. Another difference from *E. soratae* is found in the more slender petals. In *E. soratae* the lip is obscurely 3-lobed above the middle, with the middle lobe retuse. Reichenbach's sketch of the flower of Mandon No. 1138 (the type of *E. soratae*) plainly shows the lobing of the lip which was apparent in the flowers of specimens preserved in Vienna.

BOLIVIA, Province of Sacaba, Department of Cochabamba, *Steinbach* 5926, November 19, 1921. On trees. Flowers greenish yellow. Plants .50–1 meter high. 2500 meters altitude. (TYPE in the Gray Herbarium. FRAGMENT OF TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 22529.)