

EPIDENDRUM BRACHYANTHUM Hágsater & Dodson

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Type: Ecuador: Cotopaxi: West Mt. Illiniza, 3000 m, 20 October 1984, *Alex Hirtz 2036*. Holotype: RPSC!(Illustration voucher). Isotype: MO!

Epidendro tenuicauli F. C. Lehm. & Kraenzl. simile sed plantis et floribus minoribus, labelli lobulo medio quadrato leviter latiore quam longiore truncato recedens.

Hierba epífita, erecta, monopodial, compleja, produciendo tallos sucesivos subapicales, ca. 6-20 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, carnosas, gruesas, blancas, 1-2 mm de grosor, ocasionalmente alguna de la base de un tallo superior. **Tallos** erectos, tipo caña, teretes, delgados, los superiores producidos de un internodo subapical del tallo anterior, el basal, 1.0-7.5 x 0.15-0.23 cm; los superiores 2-3 x 0.15-0.2 cm. **Hojas** hasta 7 en el tallo basal, distribuidas en los dos tercios apicales del mismo, 2-3 en el ápice de los superiores, alternas, subcoriáceas, caedizas; vaina ligeramente infundibuliforme, finamente estriada, verrugosa, 4-7 x 1.5-2.0 mm; lámina lanceolada, ápice subagudo, con una quilla dorsal, margen crenado, lisa, las hojas de los tallos superiores semejantes a las del tallo basal, 1.7-2.5 x 0.4-0.6 cm. **Bráctea espátacea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, corta, arqueado nutante, florece una sola vez, pluriflora, 1.2 cm de largo; pedúnculo muy corto, terete, delgado, desprovisto de brácteas, 1.5-2.0 mm de largo; raquis terete, delgado, recto, 0.85-1.0 mm de largo. **Brácteas florales** mucho más cortas que el ovario, triangulares, agudas, abrazadoras, 1.3-2.0 mm de largo. **Ovario** terete, delgado, liso, no inflado, 6-8 mm de largo. **Flores** 10-14, simultáneas, resupinadas, sépalos amarillos, labelo blanco con el callo naranja pálido; sin datos de fragancia. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, obovados, ápice redondeado, diminutamente apiculado, 3-nervados, margen entero, 3.7-5.2 x 2.1-2.9 mm; los **laterales** ligeramente oblicuos. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, libres, cuneados, redondeados, 1-nervados, margen eroso, 3.7-4.3 x 1.3-1.5 mm. **Labelo** unido totalmente a la columna, trilobado, base profundamente cordada, margen eroso, 2.7-3 x 3.6-4.2 mm; bicalloso, los callos prominentes, globosos, formando dos tubérculos superpuestos hacia el ápice, alargados hasta la base del lóbulo medio; disco provisto una quilla lisa, subampullosa en la base, roma en el ápice; lóbulos laterales dolabriformes, suborbiculares, 1.5 x 1.8 mm; lóbulo medio cuadrado, truncado en el ápice, 1.3 x 1.9 mm. **Columna** recta, dilatada hacia el ápice, gruesa, corta, 2-3 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, margen irregular. **Antera** reniforme, 4-locular, con un par de cornículos en el ápice. **Polinios** 4, lenticulares. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** del 1/3 del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** penetrando un poco menos de la mitad del ovario, delgado, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Epiphytic, erect, monopodial, complex herb, producing successive, subapical stems. **Roots** basal, fleshy, thick, occasionally a single root from an upper stem. **Stems** erect, cane-like, terete, thin, the upper stems produced from a subapical internode of the previous stem. **Leaves** up to 7 on the basal stem, 2-3 on the upper stems, distributed along the apical 2/3, subcoriaceous, deciduous; sheath somewhat infundibuliform, minutely striated and verrucose; blade lanceolate, apex subacute, with a dorsal keel, margin crenate, smooth. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, short, arching-nutant, flowering only once, many-flowered, peduncle very short, terete, thin; rachis terete, thin, straight. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, triangular, acute. **Ovary** terete, thin, smooth. **Flowers** 10-14, simultaneous, resupinate, sepals yellow, lip white, callus light orange. **Sepals** partly spreading, free, obovate, apex rounded, minutely apiculate, 3-veined, margin entire, the **laterals** oblique. **Petals** partly spreading, free, cuneate, rounded, 1-veined, margin erose. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, deeply cordate, margin erose; bicallose, the calli prominent, globose, forming two superposed tubercles towards the apex, reaching the base of the midlobe; disc provided with a smooth keel, subampullose at the base, smooth and low at the apex; lateral lobes dolabriform-suborbicular; midlobe about equal in size, quadrate, truncate, slightly wider than long. **Column** straight, dilated towards the apex, thick, short. **Clinandrium** hood short, margin irregular. **Anther** reniform, 4-celled, with a pair of horns at the apex. **Pollinia** 4, lentil-shaped. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating a little less than half the ovary, thin, smooth.

OTHER SPECIMENS: ECUADOR: Cotopaxi: Latacunga-Quevedo, above Pilaló, 3500 m, 26 IV 1979, *Løjtnant 13752*, AAU! **Tungurahua:** Ambato-Guaranda, III 1984, *Hirtz 1558*, AMO! QCNE!

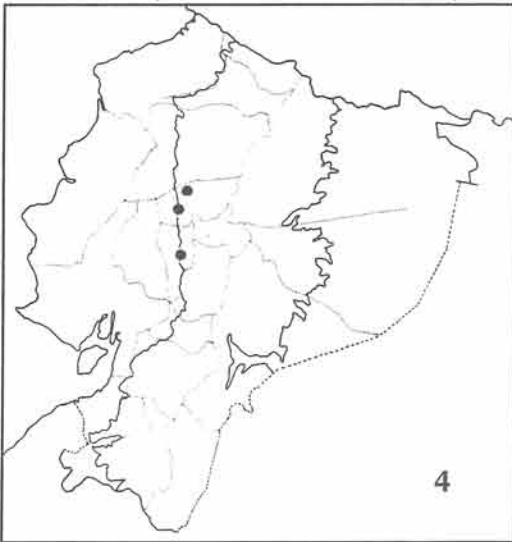
OTHER RECORDS: ECUADOR: Tungurahua [Bolívar?]: Ambato-Guaranda, III 1984, *Hirtz 1558*, in spirit AMO!

DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY: Endemic to central Ecuador, near the summit of the pacific slope of the western Andes, at around 3000-3500 m altitude. Flowering in October to April.

RECOGNITION: *Epidendrum brachyanthum* belongs to the Soratae Subgroup of the Scabrum Group which is characterized by the branching habit starting on a monopodial, primary stem, infundibuliform, rugose leaf-sheaths, lanceolate, aristate, acute leaves, racemose subcapitate inflorescence on a short, thin peduncle, and the bicallose lip. The species is recognized by the short plants, small leaves and flowers, the quadrate midlobe of the lip, slightly wider than long and truncate, and the cuneate, rounded petals, with the column only 2 mm long. *Epidendrum tenuicaule* has a bushy, branching, habit, short plants, the arching small inflorescence with greenish yellow, simultaneous flowers, the midlobe of the lip about twice as long as it is wide, and the column 5 mm long. *Epidendrum soratae* Rchb. f. has a reniform lip with two small lobules at the apex and 6-7 mm long sepals, the leaves are narrower, 4-8 mm wide. *Epidendrum cartilaginiflorum* Rchb. f. has a cordiform lip, apex obtuse, rounded, and the sepals are 15-16 mm long. *Epidendrum bolivianum* Schltr. has 13 mm-long sepals, non-infundibuliform sheaths, the lip quadrate-reniform in outline. *Epidendrum scopulorum* Rchb. f. has 4[7] flowers, the lip entire, cordiform, sepals 8.7-9.6 mm long, the column 6 mm long and ovate-lanceolate leaves.

CONSERVATION STATUS: DD. Data deficient.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Greek βραχυς- short, and ανθος- flower, in reference to the small size of the flowers compared to other closely related species.



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