

EPIDENDRUM CYCLOLOBUM Hágsater & E.Santiago  
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 5

*EPIDENDRUM CYCLOLOBUM* Hágsater et E.Santiago, sp. nov.

Type: NICARAGUA: [Matagalpa: Cordillera Central, area near "Jinotega Rock Quarry", 5 km north of Santa María Ostuma, 1500 m, 8 I 1963, *Louis O. Williams, Antonio Molina R. & Terua P. Williams* as] *A. H. Heller 23373*. Holotype: SEL 32164! (Illustration voucher). Xerox AMO! Sketch of flower by Hágsater, AMO!

*Epidendro centropetalum* Rchb.f. simile sed inflorescentiis fere sessilibus minus floriferis, petalis acutis, labelli lobulis lateralibus triangularibus rotundatis, lobulo medio orbiculare.

**Hierba** simpodial, caespitosa, con numerosos keikis; ca. 35 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, de la base de los tallos y en la base de los keikis, carnosas, gruesas, blancas; 2-3 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, teretes, delgados, erectos, rectos, produciendo keikis en el tercio apical de los tallos viejos; 35 x 0.15-0.3 cm; cubiertos en la base por vainas tubulares, no foliares. **Hojas** 5-7, distribuidas en el ápice de los tallos, articuladas, alternas, suberectas, gramíneas, generalmente caedizas; vaina tubular, verrugosa; 6-30 x 1.5-3 mm; lámina linear lanceolada, ápice agudo, margen entero; 2.2-4.5 x 0.2-0.6 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, florece una sola vez, racemosa, corta, subsésil, erecta, pauciflora; pedúnculo reducido. **Brácteas florales** mucho más cortas que el ovario. **Flores** 2, por racimo, simultaneas, resupinadas, de color rosado; sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, no inflado, liso; 13-14 mm de largo. **Sépalos** libres, oblongo elípticos, agudos, 3-nervados, margen entero, 7-8 x 1.5-2 mm; los **laterales** diminutamente apiculados, ligeramente oblicuos. **Pétalos** libres, linear oblanceolados, agudos, 3-nervados, margen entero; 7.5 x 1.5 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, 3-lobado, base truncada, margen entero; 6 x 5 mm; bicalloso, los callos delgados, paralelos; disco provisto de 3 quillas delgadas, angostas y bajas; lóbulos laterales pequeños, triangulares, redondeados, extendidos, fuertemente divaricados; 2 x 1.2 mm; lóbulo medio formando un istmo en la base, orbicular en el ápice; 4.7 x 3.7 mm. **Columna** corta, ligeramente arqueada; 3.3 mm de largo. **Clinandrium** prominente, semitubular, sobrepasando el cuerpo de la columna, margen irregular. **Antera** no vista. **Polinios** no vistos. **Rostelo** no visto. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** penetrando 1/3 del ovario, angosto. **Cápsula** no vista.

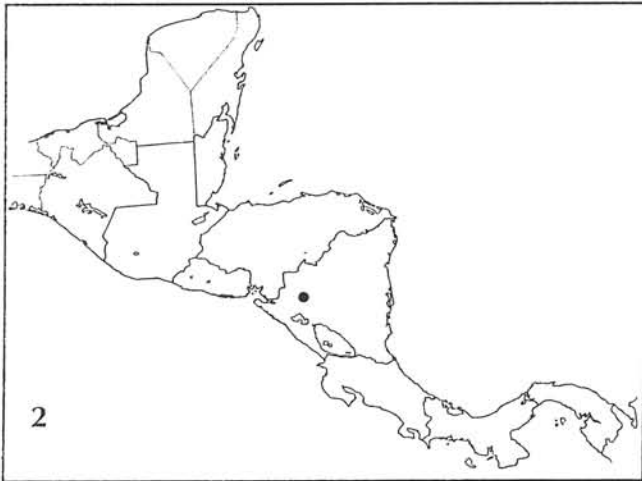
Sympodial, caespitose **herb** with numerous keikies. **Roots** basal, from the main plant and the keikies, thick, fleshy. **Stems** simple, cane-like, terete, thin, straight, producing keikies from the apical third of old stems; the base covered by tubular, non-foliaceous sheaths. **Leaves** 5-7 distributed throughout the apical half of the stems, articulate, alternate, suberect, grass-like, the lower ones generally deciduous; sheath tubular, verrucose; blade linear-lanceolate, apex acute, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, flowering only once, racemose, short, subsessile, erect, few-flowered. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary. **Flowers** 2, simultaneous, resupinate, pink. **Ovary** terete, thin, not inflated, smooth. **Sepals** free, oblong-elliptic, acute, 3-veined, margin entire; the lateral sepals minutely apiculate, slightly oblique. **Petals** free, linear-oblanceolate, acute, 3-veined, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, base truncate, margin entire; bicallose, the calli thin; disc with 3 thin keels; lateral lobes small, triangular, rounded, spreading, strongly divaricate; midlobe forming an isthmus, orbicular. **Column** short, slightly arching. **Clinandrium-hood** prominent, semitubular, surpassing the body of the column, margin irregular. **Nectary** penetrating 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the ovary, narrow.

**OTHER SPECIMENS:** None seen.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Only known from the Cordillera Central de Nicaragua, in cloud forest, at 1500 m altitude. Flowering January.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum cyclolobum* belongs to the Oerstedella Group which is characterized by the sympodial habit, mostly verrucose stems, and the rostellum which is perpendicular to the axis of the column instead of parallel, forming a wide, open sinus, and without a viscidium, and the Aberrans Subgroup, which has small, membranaceous flowers with a prominent clinandrium-hood, with unequal, bird-wing type pollinia, the inner pair much smaller than the outer pair, and the pollinia very flat and translucent. The species is recognized by the thin stems, grass-like, suberect, narrow leaves, erect, subsessile, racemose inflorescence with few pink flowers, sepals 7-8 mm long, the 3-lobed lip with the lateral lobes triangular, rounded and the midlobe orbicular. *Epidendrum centropetalum* Rchb.f. is vegetatively very similar, but the flowers are slightly larger (sepals 9-10 mm long), the lateral lobes of the lip are smaller, narrowly triangular, acute, and the midlobe is wide and an inverted "V" shaped, with a wide, deep, apical sinus. *Epidendrum pansamalae* Schltr. has still larger flowers (sepals 13-14 mm long) densely-flowered inflorescences, the lateral lobes of the lip oblong and the midlobe flabellate.

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



**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek κύκλος circle, and λοβός, lobe, in reference to the circular midlobe of the lip characteristic of this species.