

*EPIDENDRUM DELTOGASTROPODIUM* Hágsater & E. Santiago  
THE GENUS *EPIDENDRUM* PART 4

**EPIDENDRUM DELTOGASTROPODIUM** Hągsater et E. Santiago, *sp. nov.*

Type: COLOMBIA: Cauca: Páramo de Barbillas, southeast of Popayán, 3070 m, 27 July 1978, C. & J. Luer, J. Kuhn & R. Escobar 3013. Holotype: SEL! (Illustration voucher).

*Epidendrum gastropodium* Rchb.f. simile sed floribus minoribus, labello triangulari-subcordiformi rotundato, labelli basi pulvinum triangularem litterae "V" ad instar ferenti divergens.

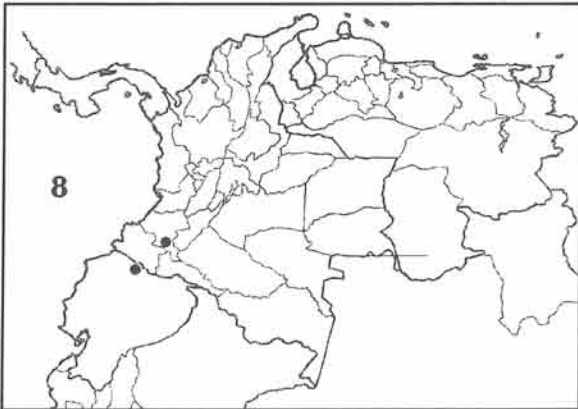
**Hierba** terrestre, ramificada, de 24-40 cm de alto. **Raíces** basales, raramente muy escasas en algunas ramificaciones, carnosas, delgadas, blancas, 0.5-1.0 mm de grosor. **Tallos** ramificados hacia el ápice, tipo caña, teretes, rectos, delgados; el tallo principal 24 x 0.4 cm; las ramificaciones más cortas, produciéndose de los entrenudos apicales de ramas anteriores, 4.0-12.5 x 0.25-0.35 cm. **Hojas** ca. de 10 en el tallo principal, generalmente no persistentes; 4-8 en las ramificaciones, distribuidas en la parte media apical de los tallos, coriáceas, alternas, generalmente caedizas con el tiempo; vaina tubular, finamente estriada y rugosa, 6-19 x 2.5-3.5 mm; lámina lanceolada, ápice desigualmente bilobado, con una quilla dorsal baja, lisa, margen entero; 2.2-4.3 x 0.3-0.5 cm. **Bráctea espatácea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, corta, racemosa, nutante, densa, multiflora, subsésil, florece una sola vez, 8-10 mm de largo; pedúnculo muy corto, terete, delgado, desprovisto de brácteas, 1.5-2 mm de largo; raquis terete, delgado, 5-7 mm de largo. **Brácteas florales** mucho más cortas que el ovario, angostamente lanceoladas, largamente acuminadas, abrazadoras, 2-3 mm de largo. **Flores** 10-15, simultáneas, resupinadas, color rosado, sin detalles de color de columna ni labelo; sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** terete, delgado, liso, ligeramente inflado ventralmente en el 1/3 apical, 7-15 mm de largo. **Sépalos** entreabiertos, libres, ovado elípticos, ápice subagudo a agudo, diminutamente apiculado, 3-nervados, margen entero, 3.8-5.6 x 2.6-3.1 mm. **Pétalos** entreabiertos, libres, angostamente elípticos, subagudos, diminutamente apiculados, 2-nervado, margen entero, 4-5.8 x 1.8-2 mm. **Labelo** unido en el 1/2 basal de la columna, entero, triangular subcordiforme, truncado en la base, los ángulos redondeados, diminutamente apiculado en el ápice, margen entero, 3.4-3.8 x 3.5-3.6 mm; ecalloso; cojín prominente en forma de "V", triangular, cóncavo en la base, estriado; en la base el labelo forma un mentón al estar doblado hacia abajo y hacia atrás antes del ápice de la columna. **Columna** ligeramente arqueada en la base, gruesa, corta; ápice con un par de lóbulos redondeados, gruesos, muy carnosos, 3 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** corto, margen entero. **Antera** reniforme, con una quilla roma central. **Polinios** 4, lenticulares, semejantes entre sí. **Rostelo** apical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no vistos. **Nectario** penetrando 1/3 del ovario, inflado, liso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Terrestrial, branching herb. **Roots** basal, fleshy, thin. **Stems** branching near the apex, cane-like, terete, straight, thin, the main stem somewhat longer than the branches. **Leaves** ca. 10 on the principal stem, 4-8 on the branches, distributed throughout the apical half, coriaceous; sheaths tubular, minutely striated and rugose; blade lanceolate, apex unequally bilobed, with a low dorsal keel, smooth, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, short, racemose, nutant, dense, many-flowered, flowering only once; peduncle, very short, terete, thin; rachis terete, thin. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, narrowly lanceolate, long-acuminate. **Flowers** 10-15, simultaneous, resupinate, pink colored, without details of the color of column and lip. **Ovary** terete, thin, smooth, inflated ventrally along the apical 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. **Sepals** partly spreading, free, ovate-elliptic, apex subacute to acute, minutely apiculate, 3-veined, margin entire. **Petals** partly spreading, free, narrowly elliptic, subacute, minutely apiculate, 2-veined, margin entire. **Lip** united to the basal 1/2 of the column, entire, triangular-subcordiform, the angles rounded, base truncate, minutely apiculate at the apex, margin entire; ecallose; cushion prominent, "V" shaped, triangular, concave at the base, striated; the base of the lip forms a mentum as it is bent down and backwards before the apex of the column. **Column** slightly arched at the base, thick, short, with a pair of rounded, very fleshy lobes at the apex. **Clinandrium** hood short, margin entire. **Anther** reniform, with rounded central keel. **Polinia** 4, lentil-shaped, similar. **Rostellum** apical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the ovary, inflated, smooth.

**OTHER SPECIMENS:** ECUADOR: Carchi: Tulcán to El Carmelo km 18, 3200 m, 7 VII 1990, Dodson 18409, MO! QCNE!

**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Apparently scarce between the border of Ecuador and Colombia and along the Cordillera Central into the province of Cauca. Growing as a terrestrial on embankments, 3070-3200 m altitude. Flowering in July.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum deltogastropodium* belongs to the Diathonea Group, Gastropodium Subgroup, characterized by the branching habit, linear-lanceolate to lanceolate, bilobed leaves, arching-nutant, racemose inflorescence, membranaceous or rarely fleshy flowers, the lip entire to 3-lobed, with an erose margin, ecallose, without or with 1-10 thin, smooth to erose keels, the column united to the lip from totally to obliquely to free, the subgroup has small, usually brightly colored flowers, the column ending in fleshy-thickened, lobes. The new species has small, acute floral segments, the sepals 3.8-5.8 mm long and the triangular-subcordiform lip is truncate at the base and provided with a prominent, "V" shaped, triangular cushion. It is similar to *Epidendrum gastropodium* which has 6-7.5 mm long sepals, and the deeply cordate lip has a transverse cushion ending in three short keels. *Epidendrum eugenii* Schltr. has 5.3-5.7 mm long sepals and the lip has no cushion but three long, parallel, slow keels. *Epidendrum melanogastropodium* Hągsater & Dodson has wide, rounded floral segments, the sepals 5.5-6.5 mm long and the lip provided with a transversely elliptic, massive, truncate cushion. *Epidendrum mesogastropodium* Hągsater & Dodson has acute floral segments, the sepals 5.0-5.6 mm long, and the cordate lip provided with a fleshy, truncate, transversely elliptic cushion.



**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD. Data deficient.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek δελτοειδης- delta-shaped, triangular, γαστηρ- belly, and ποδιον- foot, in reference to the triangular "V" shape at the base of the lip and the Gastropodium Group which share the inflated belly or ovary.

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