



*EPIDENDRUM GALEOCHILUM* Hágsater & Dressler  
THE GENUS *EPIDENDRUM* PART 4

**EPIDENDRUM GALEOCHILUM** Hágsater et Dressler, *sp. nov.*

Type: PANAMA: Coclé: El Copé, April 1978, *Dressler s.n.* Color slides, AMO! Holotype: Illustration prepared from slides, AMO! Xerox: AMES! COL! CR! JAUM! K! MO! PMA! SEL!

*Epidendro circinato* Ames simile sed labello valde concavo fistuliformi vel galeiformi recedit.

**Hierba** cespitosa, simpodial, de más de 26 cm de alto. **Raíces** no vistas. **Tallos** sencillos, produciéndose en la base del tallo anterior, tipo caña, lateralmente aplanados, rectos, gradualmente más anchos hacia el ápice, 15 x 1.2-2.1 cm. **Hojas** 3, distribuidas en la zona apical de los tallos, alternas, dísticas, falcadas; vaina tubular, finamente estriada, 15-42 x 12-21 mm; lámina angostamente elíptica, ápice bilobado, coriácea, lisa, margen entero, 8.5-11.8 x 4.0-4.6 cm. **Brácteas espatáceas** ausentes. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, erecta, compacta, florece una sola vez, 11 cm de largo; pedúnculo corto, oculto en su totalidad por 2 brácteas, muy semejantes a las florales, anchamente obovadas, redondeadas, conduplicadas, margen entero, 3-4 cm de largo. **Brácteas florales** ligeramente más largas que el ovario, obovadas, subagudas, carnosas, conduplicadas, concóloras con la tonalidad de las flores, 18 mm de largo. **Flores** 5, sucesivas, 2 abiertas a la vez, no resupinadas, dísticas y secundifloras, de color verde, concoloras, carnosas; sin datos de fragancia. **Ovario** terete, ensanchado en los 2/3 apicales, oculto casi en su totalidad por la bráctea floral, ca. 15 mm de largo. **Sépalos** libres, redondeados en el ápice, margen entero, 18 x 9 mm; el **dorsal** ligeramente reflexo, oblongo elíptico; los **laterales** entreabiertos, obovados, oblicuos. **Pétalos** libres, extendidos, ligeramente arqueados, oblongos, obtusos, margen entero, 17 x 6 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, entero, transversalmente elíptico, profundamente cóncavo, margen entero, 12.5 x 18 mm. **Columna** recta, gruesa, 7 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, entero. **Antera** no vista. **Polinios** no vistos. **Rostelo** no visto. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** no visto. **Nectario** no visto. **Cápsula** no vista.

Caespitose, sympodial **herb.** **Stems** simple, produced from the base of the previous stem, cane-like, laterally compressed, straight, gradually wider towards the apex. **Leaves** 3, distributed towards the apex of the stem, alternate, distichous, falcate; sheaths tubular, minutely striated; blade narrowly elliptic, apex bilobed, coriaceous, smooth, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, erect, compact, flowering only once; peduncle short, totally hidden by two bracts similar to the floral bracts, widely obovate, rounded, conduplicate, margin entire. **Floral bracts** slightly longer than the ovary, obovate, subacute, fleshy, conduplicate, concolor with the color of the flowers. **Flowers** 5, successive, 2 open at one time, non-resupinate, distichous and secund, green, concolor, fleshy. **Ovary** terete, thickened throughout the apical 2/3, nearly totally hidden by the floral bract. **Sepals** free, apex rounded, margin entire; the **dorsal** slightly reflexed, oblong-elliptic; the **laterals** partly spreading, obovate, oblique. **Petals** free, reflexed, oblong, obtuse, margin entire. **Lip** united to the column, entire, transversely elliptic, deeply concave, cannot be spread without tearing, margin entire. **Column** straight, short, thick. **Clinandrium hood** reduced, entire.

**OTHER SPECIMENS:** None seen.

**OTHER RECORDS:** PANAMA: without data, *Taylor 27*, water color by Sarah M. Clay, 2 February 1978, K!

**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Known only from Panama, from around El Copé in the province of Coclé, near the continental divide, somewhere around 800 m altitude. Flowering from February to April, probably longer.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum galeochilum* belongs to the Coriifolium (Spathiger) Group, Circinatum Subgroup, which is characterized by the sympodial growth, few, wide leaves, simple, distichous inflorescence with large, conduplicate bracts, large fleshy, non-resupinate, second flowers, with the lip usually inflexed in front of the column. The species is recognized by the deeply concave lip, which looks like a helmet or pipe and cannot be flattened without tearing. *Epidendrum circinatum* (syn. *Epidendrum concavilabium* C. Schweinf.) has an obtusely concave lip, broader towards the apex than at the base, and inflexed at a 90 degree angle with the axis of the column but otherwise flat. *Epidendrum vexillum* Hágsater has a nearly flat, subrectangular, cordate lip which extends like a flag on the same axis as the column.

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD. Data deficient. No specimen has been found.

**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek γαλεός- helmet, and χείλος- lip, in reference to the deeply concave, helmet-shaped lip.



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ICONES ORCHIDACEARUM 7. 2004. Plate 738