

BOTANICAL MUSEUM LEAFLETS

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AN ADDITION TO THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM

BY
OAKES AMES

IN 1923, while collecting in Spanish Honduras, I found near Tela, a species of *Epidendrum* which appears to be undescribed. It was growing in a swampy forest that receives the flood waters of the Uluá River. The stems were pendulous from the trunk of a tree. Near Progreso, an inland town, I found another specimen of the same species growing in full sunlight on a rock beside a mountain stream. Owing to the pendulous habit of the stems, the flowers were inverted. This characteristic is clearly shown in the accompanying illustration. In August 1932, Mr. J. B. Edwards found this species near Lake Yojoa, in the Department of Comayagua. Apparently it is widely distributed in Honduras although it has not yet been reported from neighboring countries.

Epidendrum hondurense *Ames sp. nov.* Herba epiphytica, robusta. Caules foliosi, foliorum vaginis omnino obtecti. Folia disticha, oblongo-elliptica, acuminata. Inflorescentia terminalis, longe pedunculata, pedunculo vaginis pluribus ancipitibus ornato. Racemus multiflorus. Flores mediocres. Sepala lateralía oblanceolata, obliqua, concava. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala angustissime spatulato-linearía. Labellum columnae valde adnatum, trilobatum, in basi cordatum; lobi laterales suborbiculares

vel dolabriformes; lobus medius bifidus; discus in basibicallosus, per medium lineis tribus ornatus. Columna apice dilatata.

Plant epiphytic. Stems tufted, 61–97 cm. long, concealed by tubular closely appressed sheaths, the upper ones bearing leaves. Leaves jointed, seven or more, oblong-elliptic, acuminate, acute, distichous, obliquely ascending, 15–21.5 cm. long, 1.8–3.5 cm. wide, gradually diminishing in size toward the summit of the stem, more or less coriaceous, becoming chartaceous when dry, the internodes 2–4 cm. long. Inflorescence an elongated simple raceme. Peduncle below the raceme 12.2–20.6 cm. long, mostly concealed by distichous sheathing acute bracts which are 3.5 cm. long and which gradually pass into the several widely separated bracts that arise alternately below the raceme and become brownish with age. Raceme about 10 cm. long, hardly 4 cm. in diameter, many-flowered. Floral bracts triangular-lanceolate, acute, about 5 mm. distant from one another, the lowermost ones sometimes 1.9 cm. long and somewhat surpassing the shortly pedicellate ovary, the upper ones becoming gradually smaller. Flowers about equal in size to the flowers of *E. paniculatum* Ruiz & Pavon. Segments of the perianth spreading. Lateral sepals obovate-oblongate, 1.2 cm. long, 3.5–4.4 mm. wide above the middle, acute, rather fleshy, greenish, somewhat verrucose on the outer surface. Dorsal sepal similar, oblongate, about 4 mm. wide above the middle, acute or subacute. Petals very narrowly spatulate, about 1 cm. long, broadly obtuse, 1-nerved. Labellum adnate to the column for about half its length, lamina or free portion sharply deflexed, convex, trilobed, cordate at the base, about 5.2 mm. long; lateral lobes flabellate-suborbicular or dolabriform with the irregular margin often lobulate in front; middle lobe

EPIDENDRUM

hondurense

Ames



subquadrate-cuneate in outline, retuse or divided nearly to the middle into triangular-oblong lobules. Disc with two fleshy semiglobose calli at the base and with three raised longitudinal fleshy ridges through the middle. Column 7.1–7.9 mm. long. Anther semiglobose, 4-celled. Pollinia four.

Epidendrum hondurensense is allied to *E. paniculatum* Ruiz & Pavon (*E. floribundum* HBK.), but is distinct in the outline of the labellum. In the type the sepals and petals exhibited a distinct tendency to become blackish with age. The lateral lobes of the labellum are sometimes almost free from lobules and exhibit only a slight tendency toward a crenulate margin. This is true of Edwards no. 228.

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, Department of Atlantida, near Tela. Epiphyte in swampy forest near the banks of the Ulua River. March 20, 1923. *Ames s.n.* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 33710): Department of Yoro, near Progreso. On rock overhanging the Rio Pelo. Sepals yellowish; petals and lip cream color, the lip somewhat yellowish on the disc, the expanded part sharply deflexed from the column. March 8, 1923. *Ames s.n.*: Department of Comayagua, Pito Solo, Lake Yojoa. Epiphyte in dense forest, at 2,000 feet altitude. Flower stalk 3 feet high. Sepals and petals light yellow, lip cream color. August 13, 1932. *J. B. Edwards 228*.

ILLUSTRATION: Plant drawn three-fourths natural size, from the type. Flower enlarged.



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