

## TWO NEW ORCHIDS FROM RIO PALENQUE, ECUADOR

C. H. Dodson\*

***Epidendrum pseudopaniculatum* Dodson sp. nov.**

Plate 1:A

A *E. paniculato* Ruiz & Pav. et affinitatibus racemis elongatis pendentibus bracteis acutis appressis confertis vestitis differt.

Epiphytic plants with short rhizomes and elongated cane-like stems to 1 m long, clothed with distichously arranged alternate leaves. Leaves elliptic, acute at the apex, green, articulated at the junction with the sheath surrounding the stem, 7-12 × 1.5-2.5 cm. Inflorescence terminal, pendent, usually unbranched, 7-45 cm long, surrounded by closely spaced, acute, appressed bracts to 8 mm long not subtended by a spathe for the length of the peduncle; floral bracts erect, ovate, acuminate, to 7 mm long, green-white. Flowers forming a tight cluster at the apex of the inflorescence; sepals and petals green, the apex of the column and base of the lip white, the mid-portion of the lip marked with purple, the lobes green; sepals narrowly oblong to spatulate, acute at the apex, 12 × 2 mm, strongly reflexed; petals 11 × 1 mm, filiform, reflexed; lip attached to the curved column at its apex, 6 mm long, 4-lobed, the basal pair of lobes sub-quadrate, recurved, truncate across the apex, 4 mm wide, the apical pair of lobes narrowly rectangular, recurved, 1 mm wide; base of the lip with 2 more or less lamellate calli and 3 parallel ridges between them extending nearly to the apex of the lip. Column tubular, arcuate, 12 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: Named to indicate its resemblance to *E. paniculatum*.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Los Ríos: Río Palenque Science Center, km 56 Quevedo-Santo Domingo, alt. 150-220 m, 15 July 1974, SEL no. 1-73-23, C. H. Dodson 5970, (HOLOTYPE: SEL, ISOTYPE: RPSC).

This new species is proposed with some hesitancy for it falls within a taxonomically chaotic group of the genus *Epidendrum*, the *Planifolia-paniculata* of Lindley. Though the flowers are morphologically within the variation pattern of *Epidendrum paniculatum* Ruiz & Pav., the inflorescence habit is very distinctive. Most of the forms of *E. paniculatum* produce the flowers in a panicle which may be small or very large. Some forms have a raceme as in *E. pseudopaniculatum* but it is short and subtended at the base by a spathe or elongated bracts. The extremely long, (to 45 cm) usually unbranched, pendent inflorescence of *E. pseudopaniculatum* with its tightly appressed, closely arranged, acute bracts distinguish it from its allies.

Several plants have been seen at Río Palenque, none of which have varied in the features which distinguish the species. Other forms of *E. paniculatum* are absent from the area but occur at elevations above 600 meters in the Santo Domingo region. *Epidendrum pseudopaniculatum* is pollinated by small butterflies of the family Ithomiinae, such as, *Melanaea idae*, *Mechanitis isthmia* ssp. *chimbrazona*, *Heterosais giulia* ssp. *pallidula*, *Ithomia hyala* and *I. cleora*.

***Teuscheria integrilabia* Dodson sp. nov.**

Plate 1:B

A speciebus ceteris generis *Teuscheriae* Garay labello integro et tubo nectarii brevissimo differt.

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Epiphytic plants with pseudobulbs arranged 1-6 cm apart along a creeping, scaly rhizome 5 mm in diameter. Pseudobulbs obliquely pyriform, 1.5-2.5 cm long, unifoliate, surrounded by a papery sheath. Leaf petiolate, narrowly elliptic to oblong, acute at the apex, attenuate at the base, 25-40 × 3-3.5 cm, strongly 5-veined on the underside; petiole 4-5 cm long. Inflorescences 1-flowered, the peduncle arcuate, 2.5-3 cm long, surrounded by 3-4 sheaths, 5 mm long, acute at the apex. Flowers pink; dorsal sepal ovate 1 × 0.5 cm, lateral sepals obliquely ovate, forming a short chin at the base, 1.3 × 0.6 cm; petals elliptic, 0.9 × 0.4 cm; lip without lateral lobes, ovate, entire, with a short foot at the base, 1 cm long, 0.6 cm wide at the mid-point; column short, broad, with a short foot at the base, 4 × 3 mm. Pollinia 4.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for its unusual undivided lip.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Los Ríos: Montañas de Ila, cloud forest on western slope, area of virgin forest just being logged, km 58 Quevedo-Santo Domingo, on side road from Patricia Pilar to 24 de Mayo, km 12, alt. 540 m, 30 May 1976, C. H. Dodson & H. C. Dodson 6113, (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the type locality.

This species was collected without flowers and was presumed to be *T. cornucopia* Garay which we have collected about 100 km to the south at Cochencay and 100 km to the north at Lita. Plants in cultivation flowered at Río Palenque in July of 1977 and proved to be distinct by its unlobed lip, and very short spur at the base of the lip.

