

***EPIDENDRUM JALCAËNSE* (ORCHIDACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM NORTHERN PERU**

MIGUEL CHOCCE^{1,7}, STIG DALSTRÖM^{2,3}, ERIC HÅGSATER⁴ & JORGE ARNAIZ^{5,6}

¹ Departamento de Gimnospermas y Monocotiledóneas, Museo de Historia Natural,
Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Perú

² Lankester Botanical Garden, University of Costa Rica, Cartago, Costa Rica

³ Centro de Investigación en Orquídeas de los Andes “Ángel Andreetta”, Universidad Alfredo Pérez Guerrero, Ecuador

⁴ Herbario AMO-Instituto Chinoín, A.C., Mexico. Email: herbamo@prodigy.net.mx

⁵ Laboratorio de Estudios en Biodiversidad. Facultad de Ciencias y Filosofía,
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Perú.

⁶ Earth & Environmental Division. Amec (PERÚ) S.A.

⁷ Corresponding author: mchocce@gmail.com

ABSTRACT. *Epidendrum jalcaëense* (Orchidaceae: Laeliinae), a new species from Northern Peru is described and illustrated.

RESUMEN. Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie para la ciencia perteneciente al género *Epidendrum jalcaëense* (Orchidaceae: Laeliinae), proveniente del Norte del Perú.

KEY WORDS: Orchidaceae, *Epidendrum*, Jalca, Peru

The orchid family is the most diverse group of flowering plants on our planet, with the genus *Epidendrum* being one of the most prolific with at least 1500 recognized species (Hågsater & Soto, 2005), distributed from North Carolina in the United States, to Argentina (Schweinfurth 1959).

Until 2003, no less than 2034 orchid species were reported from Peru (Brako & Zarucchi 1993, Ulloa et al. 2004) but this number is still growing as new species and records continue to appear.

In this article we describe and illustrate a new *Epidendrum* species recently discovered in Northern Peru.

Epidendrum jalcaëense Chocce, Dalström, Hågsater & Arnaiz, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: Peru: Lambayeque: Cañaris, 3401 m, 14 September 2007, M. Chocce, J. Arnaiz and P. Rinza 2865. (Holotype USM, illustration voucher). Fig. 1, 2.

A *Epidendro aristoloides* Hågsater & Dodson similis, sed foliis anguste ellipticis, flore aurantiaco niteniti, et labello 5 ad 7 carinato differt.

Plant epiphytic, erect, sympodial, 44-56 cm tall. *Roots* basal, fleshy, white, 1.5-2 mm thick. *Stem* simple, cane-like, terete, thin, straight, 40.5-51 x 0.54-0.6 cm. *Leaves* to 9, alternate, from the middle part of the stem toward the apex, articulated; sheaths tubular, grooved, smooth, 2-4.3 x 1.4-1.6 cm; blade narrowly elliptical, coriaceous, green, margin crenate, 4.7-6.6 x 1-1.5 cm, apex mucronate. *Spathaceous bract* not present. *Inflorescence* apical, racemose, arching, densely many-flowered, 12 cm long; peduncle short, terete, thin, arching, 4 cm long; rachis thin, terete, straight. *Floral bracts* shorter than the ovary, lanceolate, 4-5 x 1-1.5 mm. *Ovary* 18 mm long. *Flowers* to 9, simultaneous, resupinate, glossy orange, without fragrance. *Sepals* free, oblanceolate, fleshy, margin entire, 15.5-16.5 x 6-7 mm; lateral sepals aristate, with a dorsal keel; *petals* free, ovate, apex obtuse, 6-veined, margin entire, 15 x 10 mm; *lip* united to the column, 3 lobed, basally cordate, deeply notched, margin erose, 13.5 x 17 mm; basally ecallose, but with 5-7 prominent keels on the disc; lateral lobes reniform, somewhat larger than the midlobe, 6.5 x 8.5 mm; midlobe transversally oblong, apex broadly emarginate and diminutively

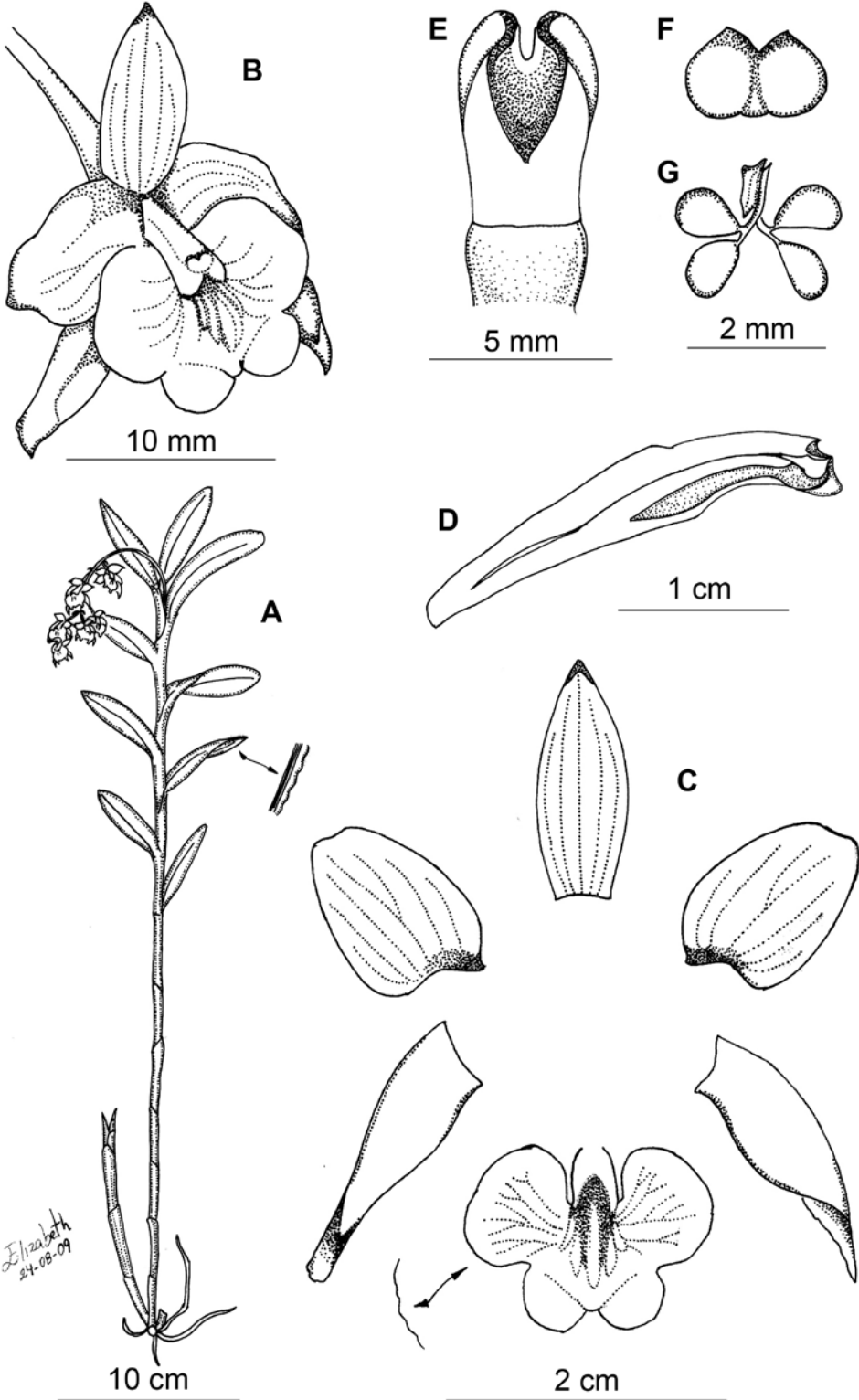




FIGURE 2. *Epidendrum jalcaëense*. Flowers (M. Chocce et al. 2865).

apiculate, forming a couple of semi rounded lobes, 5.3 x 11 mm. Column stout and thick, straight, apex slightly obconical, 10 mm long; clinandrium short with an entire margin; rostellum apical, fissured; nectary penetrating less ½ of the ovary, thick, smooth. Anther cap reniform, 4-celled. Pollinia 4, obovoid, laterally compressed;

POLLINATION: Presumed bird pollinated due to the floral characteristics that fit this pollination syndrome (Dressler 1982), and hummingbirds are abundant in the area where this showy orchid occurs.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet refers to the term “Jalca” which is the name local people use for the ecosystem where *Epidendrum jalcaëense* occurs. Scientist, however, do not agree on the definition of the term “Jalca”. By compiling local references about the usage of “Jalca” in three northern regions (Lambayeque, Cajamarca y Amazonas) we can define “Jalca” as the “mosaic” of scrublands, grasslands

and forest fragments (patchily distributed) that begins right after the continuous forests border around 3000m elevation, and at lower elevation for the eastern zones in the Amazonas region.

Epidendrum jalcaëense is similar to *E. aristoloides* Hágsater & Dodson but with narrowly elliptic leaves, and with larger and glossy orange flowers, which make the inflorescences easily visible from a distance as they reach above the canopies of the gnarled and mossy trees where this orchid grows (Fig. 2).

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Left, FIGURE 1. *Epidendrum jalcaëense* Chocce, Dalström, Hágsater & Arnaiz. A — Habit. B — Flower. C — Dissected perianth. D — Ovary and column, longitudinal section. E — Column, ventral view. F — Anther cap. G — Pollinarium. Drawn by Margoth Acuña-Tarazona from the holotype.

