**Epidendrum jalcaënse** (Orchidaceae), a new species from Northern Peru

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ABSTRACT. Epidendrum jalcaënse (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 jalcaënse (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 (Hágsater & 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 jalcaënse** Chocce, Dalström, Hágsater & 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 Hágsater & Dodson similis, sed foliis anguste ellipticis, flore aurantiaco nitenti, et labello 5 ad 7 carinato differt.
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 jalcaënse 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 jalcaënse 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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