

# *Echinosepala expolita*

PUPULIN & BELFORT  
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**Type:** Costa Rica. Alajuela: San Ramón, Piedades, Piedades Norte, road to Bajo La Paz, ca. km 3, along the Río San Pedro, 1300 m. 19 February 2008. F. Pupulin 7030, R.L. Dressler & A.P. Karremans (holotype: JBL; isotypes: JBL; LCDP voucher).

Epiphytic, caespitose, erect *herb* up to 30 cm tall. *Roots* coarse, flexuous, 1–2 mm wide. *Ramicauls* stout, terete, 6–12 cm long, with 5 unequal nodes, completely enclosed by 3–5 papyraceous, tubular, ancipitous, obliquely truncate, glabrous, inflated sheaths, 20–80 × 2–8 mm, breaking longitudinally and disintegrating with age. *Leaf* coriaceous, linear-elliptic, subacute, minutely emarginate, 16–27 × 2–3 cm, midvein strongly protruding abaxially. *Inflorescence* a fascicle of successive flowers produced at the apex and the base of the ramicaul; peduncle terete-subclavate, erect, glabrous, 18–25 mm long. *Floral bract* papyraceous, loose, obliquely truncate-subobtuse, 18–24 mm long. *Pedicel* terete-subclavate, 18–25 mm long. *Ovary* lanate-hirsute, covered by the bract, linear-subclavate, 3 mm long. *Flowers* bilabiate, opening in the morning and closing in late afternoon; the sepals light greenish yellow, with the adaxial basal half mottled purple-red, the distal half with pointed verrucae, abaxially purple and densely warty-pubescent; the petals yellow, blotched with purple-red, sparsely verrucose; the lip dark purple, fresh flowers apically covered with a translucent wax. *Dorsal sepal* elliptic-oblong, subacute, 19–20 × 4–9 mm, 7–9-veined, base semitransparent forming a window under the dark blotches. *Lateral sepals* connate into an elliptic synsepal, 16–17 × 4–10 mm, each 5-veined, the apices free about 6 mm, subacute-rounded. *Petals* fleshy, rhombic, obliquely asymmetric, acute, 6–7 × 1–3 mm, 3-veined. *Lip* 3-lobed, narrowly oblong-obovate from a small, rounded, thin claw, 7.5 × 2.2 mm, the base subtruncate; lateral lobes basal, erect, narrowly linear-subuncinate, antrorse; the apical lobe elliptic-truncate, with irregular margins, with a pair of intramarginal, thin keels running from the disc, inside the lateral lobes, to the middle of the midlobe blade, apically thickened into a cushion-like, elliptic, low pad; disc with an erect, narrow callus arising above the base, topped by a horseshoe-shaped, channeled pseudo-glenion, producing a gelatinous exudate, extending in

front into a low groove flushing into the apex. *Column* straight, semiterete, 4–5 mm long, with long, narrow, subrectangular wings above the middle, the foot 2 mm long. *Anther cap* globose, cucullate, 0.8 × 0.8 mm, with stiff hairs on the upper margin, 2-celled. *Pollinia* 2, obovoid, flattened, 0.6 × 0.3 mm, caudicle short bilobed.

**Etymology:** From the Latin *expolitus*, “shining, glossy”, in allusion to the glossy apex of the lip in the fresh flowers with exudate.

*Echinosepala expolita* is distinguished by the inflorescence that may be produced both at the apex and lower nodes of the ramicaul, the glabrous, inflated sheaths that cover the stem, the linear-elliptic leaves, the lanate-hirsute ovary, the sepals >15 mm long, and the tomentose abaxial indumentum of the sepals.

#### References:

Pupulin, F., A. P. Karremans & N. Belfort Oconitrillo (2017). Two new species of *Echinosepala* (Orchidaceae: Pleurothallidinae). *Lankesteriana* 17(2): 285–304.



LCDP: *Echinosepala expolita* Pupulin & Belfort. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D–E. Lip, adaxial and three quarters views. F. Ovary, column and lip, lateral view. G. Ovary and column, three quarters and ventral views. H. Anther cap. I. Pollinarium, two views.

