

BENZINGIA HIRTZII Dodson

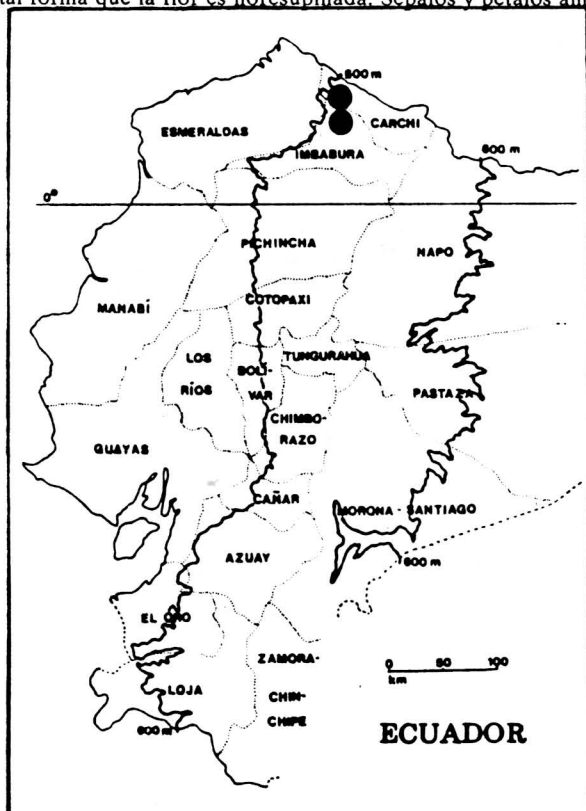
Benzingia hirtzii Dodson, gen. et sp. nov.

Latin diagnosis: Habitus *Steniae* Lindl. similis sed labello spatulato non profunde saccato, et habitus *Chondrorhynchae* Lindl. similis sed sepalis patentibus nec retrorsis neque falcatis distinguitur. Species haec *Benzingiae estradae* (Dodson) Dodson similis, sed inflorescentia erecta, labello basi leviter concavo apice rotundo et ovario geniculato distinguitur.

Type: ECUADOR: IMBABURA: Santa Rosa de Chaco, 8 km East and 8 km North of Lita on road Ibarra to Lita, 1150 m, 19 Jan 1987, *Dodson, Hirtz, Benzing & Luer 16893* (Holotype - RPSC, Isotypes - QCNE, K, SEL).

Epiphyte. Plant to 15 cm tall. Rhizome short, stems erect, very short, without pseudobulbs, surrounded by imbricating, distichous leaf-bearing sheaths. Leaves elliptic-oblong, acuminate at the apex, narrowing to the base and the articulated junction with the sheath, membranaceous, to 12 x 1.6 cm. Inflorescence 1-flowered, erect, usually one inflorescence produced from each leaf sheath; floral bracts triangular, 3 mm long; ovary geniculate so that flower is nonresupinate, to 2 cm long, terete. Flower yellow, the sepals and petals spotted with red-brown, the lip yellow with an orange callus, abundantly spotted with red-brown. Sepals spreading, free; dorsal sepal oblong-ovate, 1.7 x 0.5 cm; lateral sepals obliquely oblong-ovate, 1.8 x 0.5 cm; petals oblong-ovate, spreading, obtuse, 1.7 x 0.5 cm; lip shallowly concave, scoop-shaped, rotund, not surrounding the column, 2.2 x 2.2 cm, united to the column foot at the base, with a flat callus down the midline; column arcuate, subterete, slightly winged on each side below the stigma, 1.5 cm long, produced into a terete foot 0.8 cm long; pollinia in 2 unequal pairs, attached to a rectangular stipe, attached to a cordiform viscidium.

Planta característica de género y especies aliados en forma, sin pseudobulbos. Inflorescencia uniflora; ovario geniculado en tal forma que la flor es noresupinada. Sépalos y pétalos amarillos con manchas café-rojizo, labio amarillo con un callo anaranjado, con manchas café; sépalos desplegándose; pétalos desplegados; labio cóncavo somero, rotundo, con un callo plano; columna subterete; polinios en 2 pares desiguales.



Distribution: Northwestern Ecuador.

Other Specimens seen: ECUADOR: ESMERALDAS: Lita-Alto Tambo, 725 m, May 1987, *Dodson et al. 17143* (RPSC0).

Etymology: Named to honor Dr. David Benzing and Alex Hirtz, both of whom participated in the collection of the type.

Note: *Benzingia estradae* (Dodson) Dodson, comb. nov.

Basionym: *Chondrorhyncha estradae* Dodson, Ic. Pl. Trop. Pl. 022. 1980. (Holotype - SEL).

Observations: Distinguished by the scoop-shaped lip, the rotund apex of the lip, the erect inflorescence, the nonresupinate flowers, and the geniculate ovary.

Illustration voucher: Dodson et al. 16893.

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