

STENIA PALORAE Dodson & Hirtz

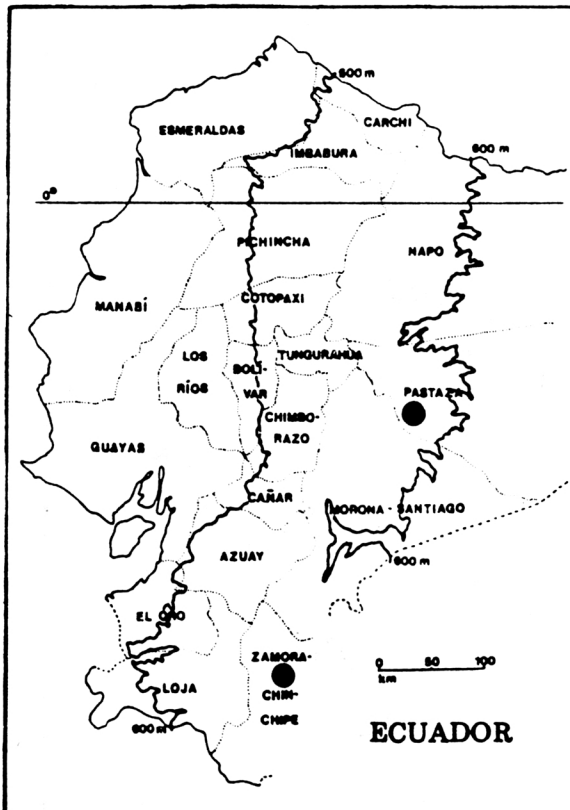
Stenia palorae Dodson & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Latin diagnosis: Species haec *Stenia cornutae* (Ackerman) Dodson similis sed habitu pendenti, labello carassiore latioreque et lobo antico acuminato longiore differt.

Type: ECUADOR: PASTAZA: Río Palora, 800 m, 15 Jul-15 Oct 1983, *Hirtz 1545* (Holotype - SEL).

Epiphyte. Plant pendent. Stem very short, surrounded by the bases of imbricating distichous leaf sheaths, with roots from the base and the axils of the leaves. Leaves glaucous-green, oblong-elliptic, acuminate at the apex, to 20 x 4 cm. Inflorescences from the axils of the basal leaf sheaths; 1-flowered; to 8 cm long; with one or two appressed ovate bracts. Sepals and petals white; lip white outside with yellow borders and tip and with brown markings inside. Dorsal sepal oblong-elliptic, acute at the apex, erect, to 2 x 1 cm; lateral sepals obliquely ovate, acute at the apex, surrounding the lip, spreading at the apex, to 2 x 1.2 cm; petals obliquely oblong, acute-acuminate at the apex, spreading, to 3 x 1 cm; lip deeply saccate, sub 3-lobed, the apical lobe elongate, linear, recurved along the surface of the lip, 6 x 1 mm, the callus with a shallow ridge down the midportion of the lip, pocket-like with a truncate, 4-lobed apex; column subterete, expanded on each side of the slit-like stigma; pollinia 4, clavate.

Epífita. Planta pendiente. Tallo muy corto, rodeado por las bases de vainas foliáceas, imbricándose. Hojas glauco-verdes. Inflorescencia desde las axilas de las vainas foliares basales; uniflora. Sépalos y pétalos blancos; labio blanco afuera con bordes y punta amarillos y marcas café adentro; labio profundamente sacciforme, sub-tribado, el lobo apical alargado, recurvado a lo largo de la superficie del labio, el callo un lomo somero bajo la porción media del labio, como bolsillo con un ápice truncado, 4-lobado; columna subterete expandida en cada lado del estigma como ranura; polinios 4, claviformes.



Distribution: Eastern Ecuador.

Etymology: Named to indicate the region in which the plant is found.

Other specimens seen: ECUADOR: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: Zamora, 2 May 1987, *Dodson et al. 16935* (RPSC).

Observations: Similar to *Stenia cornuta* (Ackerman) Dodson but differing in the pendent habit, the thicker and broader lip with a longer more acuminate terminal lobe.

Habitat: Epiphyte in very wet montane forest in deep shade.

Flowering season: July to October.

Illustration voucher: Hirtz 1001.

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