

Dichaea elliptica Dressler & Folsom, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: PANAMA. Coclé, Aserradero El Copé, ca. 8 km N of El Copé, 800-900 m; 9, 10 April 1977; *Dressler 5641* (holotype MO, isotype PMA).

Dichaea brachypodae similis, foliis ellipticis et ovario muricato dignoscenda.

Epiphytic, erect or pendent, roots 0.5-0.8 mm in diameter, puberulent; stems 9-22 cm; leaves distichous, sheathing bases appressed to stem, blades 1.3-2.8 x 0.3-0.7 mm, elliptic or lanceolate-elliptic, acuminate, apices hispid-ciliate for 5-8 mm. Inflorescence axillary, 1-flowered, peduncle 7-12 mm; floral bract 3-5 x 3-4 mm, basally clasping, broadly ovate, carinate, acute or apiculate; ovary and pedicel 0.8-1 mm, muricate; flowers cream

speckled with red or violet; sepals 6-8 x 2.3-3.5 mm, lanceolate, apiculate; petals 6-8 x 1.8-2.5 mm, elliptic-obovate to lanceolate, acute; lip 5.5-7 x 6.5-7 mm, claw cuneate, 3.5 x 3-4 mm, blade lunate to subtriangular, with acute, recurved basal angles, apiculate; column stout, 2.5-3 mm.

OTHER MATERIAL SEEN: COSTA RICA. Puntarenas: Las Alturas, above las Cruces, flowered in cult. 11 Sept. 1995, *J. Luer s.n.* (MO). PANAMA. Chiriquí: Camp Hornito, Fortuna dam site, 8°44'N 82°10'W, to Cerro Fortuna, 1200-1500 m, 16 Aug. 1976, *Dressler 5399* (MO); Coclé: S. of Cascajal along continental divide, 80° 25'W, 8° 45'N, 7 Nov. 1981, *S. Knapp 1986* (MO); Darién: Cerro Sapo, elev. 700-900 m, 1-2 Feb. 1978, *Dressler 5779* (MO); Panamá: Cerro Campana, 10 July 1968, *Dressler 3535* (MO); 10 May 1969, *Dressler 3627* (MO); La Eneida, 10 May 1969, *Dressler 3626* (MO); 8 July 1969, *Dressler 3650* (PMA); Veraguas: First branch of Río Santa María, about 8 km NW of Santa Fé, elev. ca. 650 m, 4 Aug. 1975, *Dressler 5063* (MO); Proyecto Arizona (Buenos Aires), N. slope of ridge E. of Cerro Arizona, 950 m, 12 Oct. 1975, *Dressler 5190* (MO, PMA); Cerro Arizona (Tute) NW of Santa Fé, 10-11 Feb. 1976, *Dressler 5531* (MO).

Dichaea brachypoda Rehb.f. was based on *Wendland 809* (W-R!), from San Miguel, Costa Rica. The name has been used quite widely by

Reichenbach, himself, and was applied to *D. camaridioides* Schltr. by Dunsterville & Garay (1965). We confidently used the name for a common species in Panama, until we looked at the type, which is a *Dichaea* with a smooth ovary. We have seen nothing like the type from Costa Rica. Though *Wendland 809* was apparently collected in the field, its aspect is more typical of specimens prepared from cultivated plants, a scrap of vegetative material with one or two flowers. Until such a plant is (again) found in Costa Rica, we remain a bit sceptical as to its origin. *Dichaea elliptica* differs from *D. camaridioides* in that it has a distinct, strap-like ligule, rather than a triangular projection of the ventral margin of the stigma.