

**Dichaea gracillima** *C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.*

Herba pergracilis, silvicola. Caules caespitosi vel prope basim ramosi, tenues, vaginis foliorum omnino oblecti, parte basali plus minusve defoliati. Folia numerosa, disticha, anguste linearia, erecto-patentia, ad vaginas imbricantes apice patentem articulata. Inflorescentiae numerosae, uniflorae, breves, singulae in foliorum axillis. Sepalum dorsale elliptico-lanceolatum, concavum, acutum. Sepala lateralia ovato-lanceolata, valde concava, acuminata. Petala ovato-elliptica, acuminata. Labellum in circuitu late obovatum, parte basali subquadrata, parte anteriore abrupte anchoriformi-dilatata cum auriculis brevibus retrorsis.

Plant very slender, caespitose or branching near the base. Roots fibrous, nearly as stout as the stems (where naked). Stems slender, erect or arcuate, up to about 30 cm. long, entirely concealed by imbricating leaf-sheaths which are leafless and waste into fibres near the base in old plants. Leaves articulated, distichous, numerous, narrowly linear, up to 4.7 cm. long and 2 mm. wide, shortly acuminate and apiculate, erect-spreading, commonly conduplicate below the middle. Inflorescences numerous, 1-flowered, solitary in the leaf-axils; peduncles about 1 cm. or more long, filiform, concealed at the base by two imbricating cylindrical scarious sheaths and terminating in a scarious shallowly infundibuliform acute bract which encloses a linear bracteole. Flower small, submembranaceous. Dorsal sepal elliptic-lanceolate, strongly concave, about 5 mm. long and 2.2 mm. wide, acute, 3-nerved, dorsally carinate at the apex. Lateral sepals ovate-lanceolate, strongly concave, asymmetric, about 5 mm. long and 2.5 mm. wide below the middle, acuminate, dorsal-

ly unicarinate, 4-nerved with the anterior nerve extending only through the lower half. Petals ovate-elliptic, acuminate with a complicate apex, about 4.2 mm. long and 2.1 mm. wide, 3-nerved. Lip obovate in outline, concave, abruptly anchor-shaped-dilated near the broad apex, abruptly acute, shortly clawed, about 4 mm. long, 7-nerved; lower portion of lamina subquadrate, abruptly rounded at the base, about 2 mm. long and 2.1 mm. wide; anterior portion abruptly dilated with a short retrorse triangular-lanceolate lobule on each side, nearly 4 mm. wide when expanded. Column very short and stout, about 1.6 mm. long, with an inconspicuous erect shallowly rounded infrastigmatic process. Pollinia four, in two unequal pairs, complanate-subpyriform.

The habit of this species suggests a very slender form of *Dichaea Powellii* Schltr., but the very narrow leaves and abruptly subquadrate basal portion of the lip are diagnostic.

The description of the flower was made from a single (perhaps immature) flower in which the segments were connivent.

COSTA RICA, Piedades de San Ramón. "Bois. Alt. 1100 m. 26-X-1925." *A.M. Brenes* (274) 1459 (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 45278.)