

Dracula gerhardii Luer & Sijm., *sp. nov.*
 TYPE: COLOMBIA. Norte de Santander:
 obtained from G. Vierling, flowered in
 cultivation in Venhuizen, Holland, June 2010,
 by A.P. Sijm 291122 (Holotype: MO); C. Luer
 illustr. 21536. Fig. 17.

*Planta mediocris, racemo horizontale
 folio anguste lineari-oblongo brevior, flore
 subcampanulato, sepalis obtusis caudatis
 intus minute papillois guttulatis, caudis
 crassis laminis leviter longioribus, labelli
 epichilo coccineo cordato obtuso non profundo
 irregulariter lamellato, lamellae quam
 marginibus altioribus distingitur.*

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots coarse. *Ramicauls* relatively slender, erect, 5 cm long, enclosed by 2–3 tubular sheaths. *Leaf* erect, thinly coriaceous, narrowly linear-oblong, acute, 18–20 cm long, 1–1.2 cm wide, narrowed below into a petiole 2–3 cm long. *Inflorescence* a horizontal, loose, successively few-flowered raceme up to ca. 11 cm long including the peduncle ca. 3 cm long, from the base of a ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, 8–10 mm long; pedicels 10–11 mm long; ovary 5 mm long; *sepals* dull white externally, minutely papillose, dark purple-spotted within, connate into a subcampanulate tube, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, obtuse, 12 mm long, 15 mm wide, multiveined, connate to the lateral sepals for 7 mm, with the apex rounded, contracted into an erect, stout tail 15 mm, 1.5 mm wide at the base, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, obtuse, connate 10 mm into a lamina 15 mm long, 22 mm wide expanded, the apices contracted into stout, diverging tails 18 mm long; *petals* whitish, dark purple at the tip, oblong, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex bivalvate, papillose between the valves, the outer valve rounded, the inner valve shorter, irregularly dentate; *lip* subpandurate-spathulate, 6.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, the epichile crimson, broadly cordate, rounded at the tip, 3.75 mm long, 5 mm wide, not thick, but deeply cleft between irregular, radiating lamellae to either

side of a central lamella, the lamellae slightly higher than the thin margins, the hypochile white with crimson margins, oblong, 3 mm long, 3 mm wide, cleft centrally between a pair of fleshy keels, the base hinged to the column-foot; *column* yellow, semiterete, 3.5 mm long, irregularly dentate at the apex, with a stout foot 3 mm long.

Etymology: Named for Gerhard Vierling, of Neckargemund, Germany, in whose collection this species was found.

Only three other species of *Dracula* (*D. anthracina* Luer & R.Escobar, *D. orientalis* Luer & R.Escobar, and *D. vlad-tepes* Luer & R.Escobar) are known to occur in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia, the majority being known from the Western Cordillera and Ecuador. *Dracula gerhardii* is distinguished by narrowly linear-oblong leaves and a shorter, horizontal raceme. The flowers are cupped and densely dotted and minutely papillose within. The sepals are obtuse with slightly longer, thick tails. The petals do not differ from the majority of the other species. The crimson epichile of the lip is shallow, but the clefts between the radiating lamellae are deep. The lamellae rise slightly above the thin margins of the epichile.

