

***Dresslerella lasiocampa* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Greek *lasiocampa*, "a wooly caterpillar," for the fancied appearance of the flower.

Species haec *Dresslerellae hirsutissimae* (C.Schweinf.) Luer affinis, sed ramicaubus brevioribus, foliis latioribus, pedunculo longiore erecto, et labello ad apicem non fimbriato distinguatur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose, more or less forming a rosette; roots slender. Ramicauls horizontal to suberect, stout, 1-3 cm long, enclosed by 3 pilose, imbricating sheaths. **Leaf** light green, suffused with purple beneath, suberect to horizontal, erect in relationship to the ramicaul, fleshy, verruculose, covered on both sides by long, white trichomes, elliptical, obtuse, 2-3.5 cm long, 1.5-2 cm wide, the base broadly cuneate, sessile. **Inflorescence** a succession of single flowers, borne by an erect peduncle 12-14 mm long, with a basal sheath 5 mm long, at the base of the leaf; floral bract tubular, long-pubescent, 9-10 mm long; pedicel pubescent, 6-7 mm long; ovary densely long-pubescent, 2.5 mm long; **sepals** translucent yellow-green, diffusely spotted with purple, covered externally by a long, white pubescence, the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, acute, acuminate, clavellate, 14 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 5-veined, the lateral sepals connate to the apex into a deeply concave, obtuse, scaphoid synsepal, 13 mm long, 7 mm wide unexpanded; **petals** translucent with purple spots, minutely pubescent, obovate below the middle, oblique, 11.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the apex acute, long-acuminate, the clavate tip yellow-orange; **lip** light green, dotted with purple, pandurate, 6 mm long, the apical lobe ovate, minutely pubescent, 2 mm wide, with the apex rounded, apiculate, obovate below the narrow isthmus, the lateral lobes thin, uncinat, erect, the disc with a low pair of converging carinae, the claw with an acute, erect callus, the base truncate with minute marginal lobules, hinged to the column-foot; **column** slender, semiterete, 4 mm long, winged at the bidentate apex, the base developed into a thick, pedestal-like foot.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: alt. 1500 m, collected by M. Portilla, flowered in cultivation 6 Apr. 1979, *C. Luer 4054* (Holotype: SEL); near Chigüinda, cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, 5 Mar, 2001, *C. Luer 19666* (MO).

This species has been mistakenly identified as Peruvian *Dresslerella hirsutissima*. At that time, *D. lasiocampa* was the only species with long-pubescent sepals, and with an attenuated, clavate dorsal sepal and petals known from Ecuador. The other differences were thought to be geographic variations. It differs from *D. hirsutissima* in the smaller, more or less rosette habit with much shorter, prone ramicauls, and broader leaves. The flower is held erect by a considerably longer peduncle and pedicel above the surface of the leaf. The ramicauls of *D. hirsutissima* are as long as the narrower leaves, and the flowers are borne by short pedicels at the base of the leaf. The apical lobe of the lip of *D. lasiocampa* is only microscopically verrucose while the apical lobe of *D. hirsutissima* is deeply fimbriate and long-papillose. *Dresslerella lasiocampa* is most similar to *D. pilosissima* from Costa Rica.