

*Dresslerella stellaris* Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Figure 305

Planta pro genere grandis, vaginis caulium secundariorum brunneo maculatis, foliis crassis anguste ovatis minute ciliatis, flore magno successivo marronino trichomatibus densis stellatis, sepalis profunde concavis, petalis anguste attenuatis minute pubescentibus, labello ovato acuto infra medium biangulato disco crasso verrucoso bicarinato.

Plant large for the genus, epiphytic, caespitose, rosetted, roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems more or less horizontal, terete, 5-10 cm long, concealed by 4-5 loose, imbricating, brown-spotted sheaths, shed with increasing age, unifoliate. Leaf horizontal, thick, rigid, coriaceous, dark green, longitudinally veined, minutely ciliate along the margins, narrowly ovate, 8-12 cm long, 3-4 cm wide, the apex entire, acute, the base subcordate, sessile. Inflorescence composed of solitary flowers produced successively from the base of the leaf; peduncle ca. 1 cm long with 2-3 loose, brown-spotted sheaths; floral bract brown with darker brown spots, ciliate, cucullate, 15 mm long, enclosing the pedicel, ovary and lower part of the flower; pedicel green, shortly pubescent, 5 mm long, the filament well-developed; ovary 4 mm long, covered by white, villous hairs; sepals fleshy, dark red-purple, densely covered by stellate trichomes, the dorsal sepal glabrous within, elliptical, concave with involute margins, subacute, 24-27 mm long, 6-10 mm wide unspread, connate to the synsepal for 6-7 mm and loosely adherent for 14-15 mm, the apex contracted, the lateral sepals connate into an oblong, concave synsepal, 25-30 mm long, 12-15 mm wide unspread, with involute margins, papillose within and long-hirsute near the margins; petals purple, very narrowly ovate, the apex long-attenuate, 20 mm long, 2 mm wide, minutely pubescent; lip white suffused with pink, ovate, 8 mm long, 3 mm wide, acute, with obtuse, erect angles below the middle, the disc lightly rugose between, with a thick, curved callus above the base extending forward as tuberculose carinae onto the anterior portion, the base minutely biauriculate; column white marked with purple, curved, clavellate, 8 mm long, with a short, thick foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *stellaris*, "stellate," in reference to the stellate trichomes that cover the sepals.

TYPE: COLOMBIA: Dept. of ANTIOQUIA: Munic. of Yarumal, "El Oro," alt. 2050 m, 3 Jan. 1974, R. Escobar, O. J. Arango & W. Teague s.n., cultivated at SEL, greenhouse acc. no. 77-2944, flowered in cult. 14 Dec. 1977, C. Luer 2261 (HOLOTYPE: JAUM; ISOTYPE: SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Colombia.

This, the largest of all known species of *Dresslerella*, has been discovered recently in the central cordillera of Colombia. The long, hard, thick leaves are only minutely ciliate and the cauline sheaths are merely spotted. The huge, dark red flower is covered by a dense mat of stellate trichomes, all of the same height. The filaments from the apex of each stalk protrude in a horizontal plane so that a distinct layer of stellate filaments, like a canopy, is held evenly above the surface of the sepals. The petals are very slender and minutely pubescent. The lip is similar to that of *D. hispida* (L. O. Wms.) Luer and *D. powellii* (Ames) Luer.

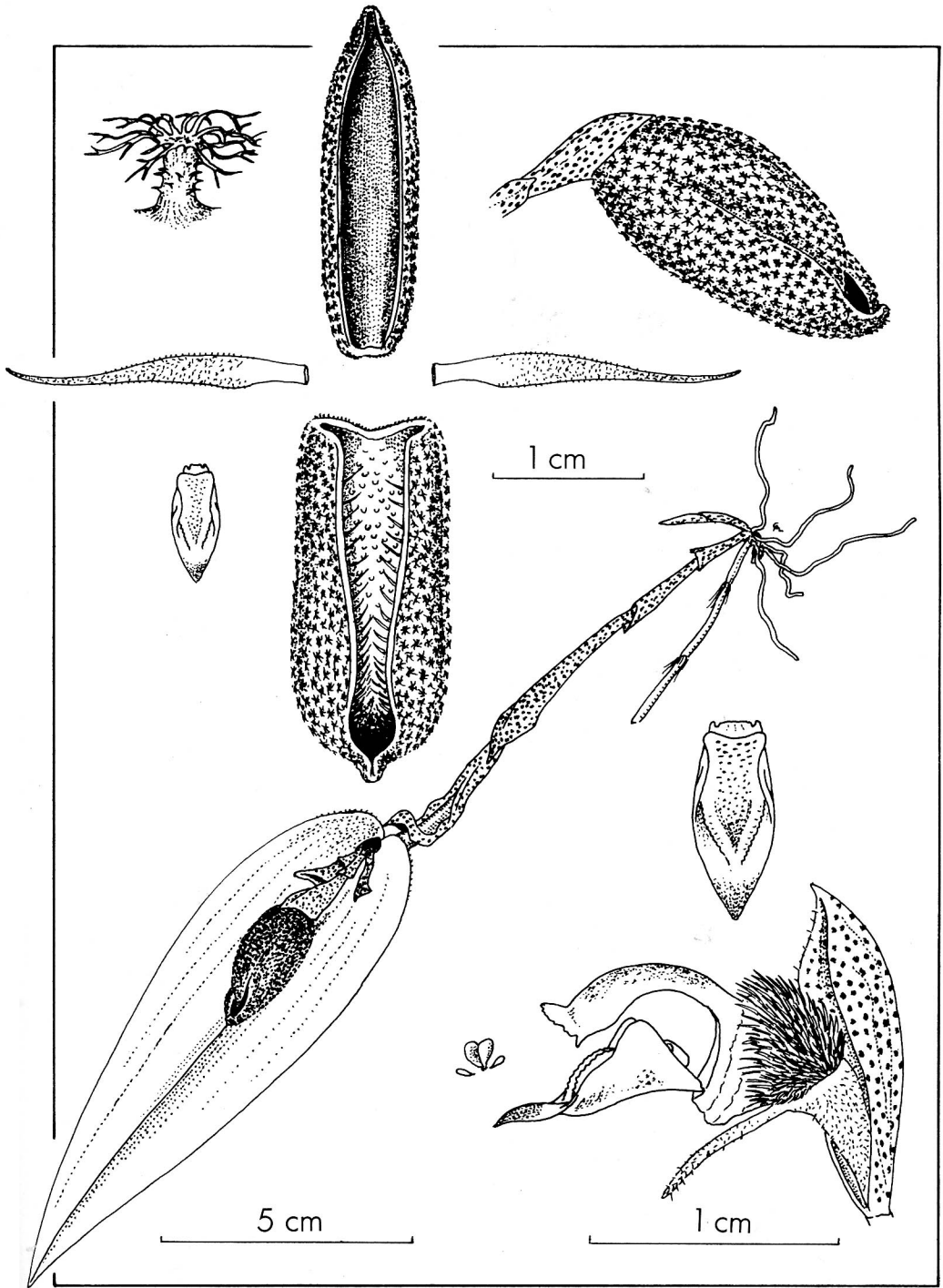


Figure 305. *DRESSLERELLA STELLARIS*