

Dressleria aurorae H. Hills & D. E. Benn.,
sp. nov. (Fig. 2)

TYPE: PERU. Huanuco: Tingo Maria without exact locality, *E. Jara P. ex H. Hills 89030* (HOLOTYPE: AMES; ISOTYPE: SEL).

Species haec *Dressleriae eburneae* (Rolfe) Dodson similis ab ea sepalis petalisque expansis, sepalis angustioribus et callo rudimentali differt.

Caespitose epiphytes. *Roots* thick, fleshy, white, fragrant. *Pseudobulbs* fusiform, to 12 × 3 cm. *Leaves* oblanceolate, acute, to 30 × 1.5 cm, the uppermost with a large, close, sheathing base soon tapering to a channeled petiole-like leaf base. *Inflorescence* a basal, lateral, erect raceme, subtended by several ovate, acute-acuminate bracts. *Flowers* 5–8, nonresupinate, very fragrant (persistent in dried specimens), cream-white. *Sepals* subsimilar, linear-oblong, acute, to 2.2 × 0.8 cm, the lateral sepals carinate-apiculate. *Petals* broadly elliptic-ovate, acute, lightly concave, to 2.2 × 1 cm. *Labellum* rigidly fleshy, ovate, obtuse, saccate at base, to 2 × 1.4 mm, upper surface flat, the opening rhombic with a low apical tooth-like callus, the lateral margins essentially devoid of cal-

lus. *Column* extremely fleshy, stout, rigid, 0.8 × 0.9 cm. *Pollinarium* not seen. *Pedicel* and *ovary* cylindrical, to 3.6 cm long.

Etymology: Named in honor of Aurora Pastorelli de Bennett, active contributor to our knowledge of Peruvian orchids.

Habitat: *Dressleria aurorae* is native to wet montane forests where it flowers from March to June in association with emerging new shoots.

Paratypes: PERU. Dept. San Martín: Prov. San Martín, Tarapoto, km 30 along road from Tarapoto to Yurimaguas, 650 m, 10 Apr 1965, *D. Bennett & A. Bennett 1699* (SEL). Dept. Huanuco: Prov. Leoncio Prado, Cordillera Azul, ca. 1300 m, 15 Jun 1987, *E. Jara s.n.* (FLAS); 20 km beyond Tingo Maria towards Pucallpa, 7 Apr 1987, *H. Hills s.n.* (FLAS).

Dressleria aurorae differs from *D. eburnea* (Rolfe) Dodson by its spreading floral segments, sepals much narrower than the petals, rudimentary callus, and simpler floral fragrance. *Dressleria eburnea* has strongly reflexed floral segments and a complex floral fragrance. The subtle morphological differences in this complex as well as full floral fragrance data will be forthcoming in a monograph of *Dressleria* (Hills, in prep.). *Dressleria aurorae* differs from *D. bennettii* Hills & Christenson by the minimal callus surrounding the labellum opening and the stiffly erect inflorescence.

The only previous record of *Dressleria* for Peru was the report by Dodson (q.v., Brako & Zarucchi, 1993: 780) of *Dressleria eburnea* (Rolfe) Dodson based on an unpublished illustration by M. Pastorelli. *Dressleria eburnea* does not occur in either Ecuador or Peru, and most South American reports of *D. eburnea* are based on misidentifications and/or an overly broad concept of that species. There are two undescribed species from Ecuador (Hills, in prep.) that are similar to those described here and also erroneously recorded as *D. eburnea* (e.g., Dodson & Dodson, 1980, p.p.).

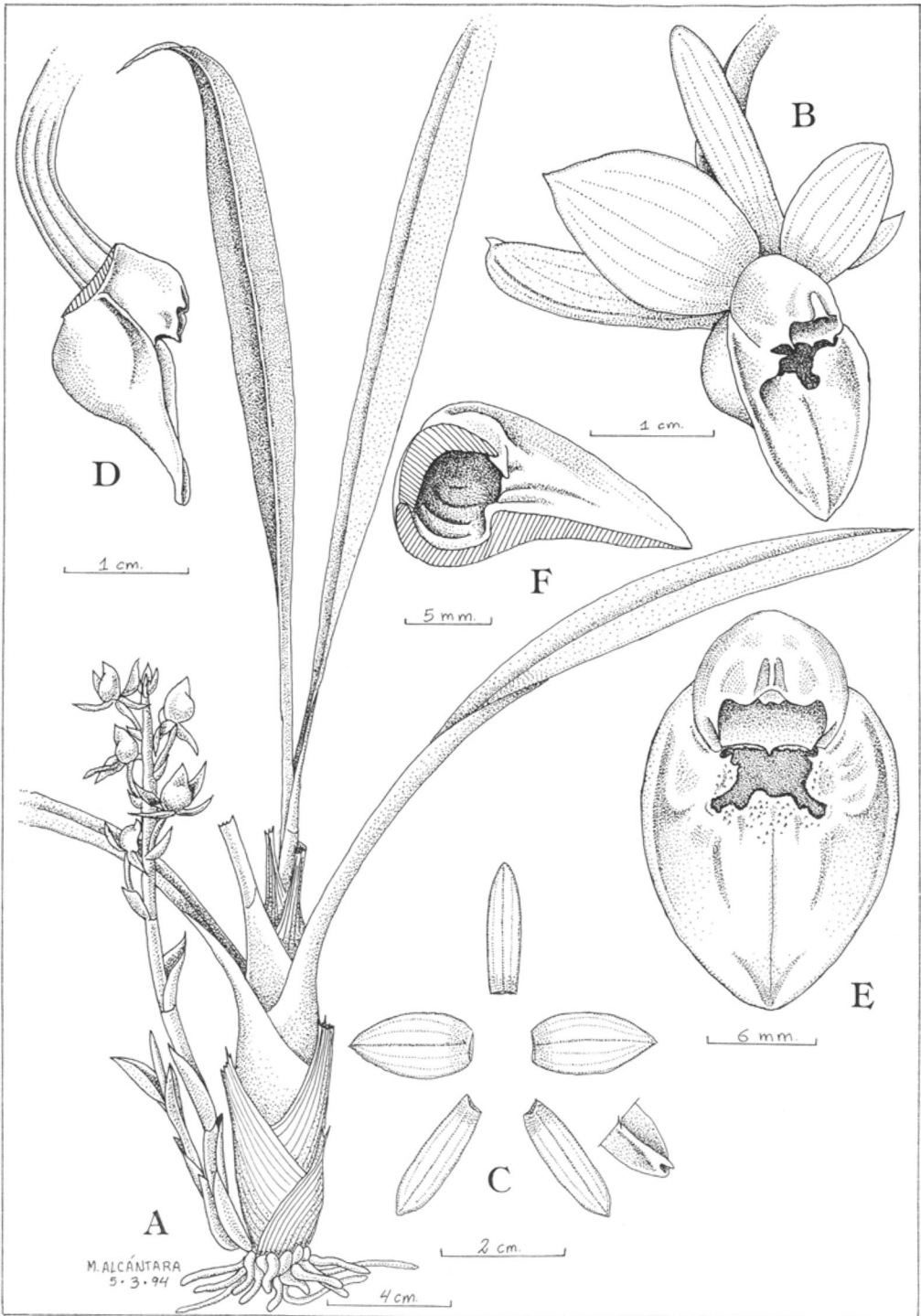


FIG. 2. *Dressleria aurorae* H. Hills & D. E. Benn. (drawn from Bennett 6564). A. Plant in flower. B. Flower. C. Floral dissection. D. Labellum and column in profile. E. Labellum from above. F. Labellum, longitudinal section.