

**Dryadella acuminata Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *acuminatus*, "acuminate," referring to the apices of the sepals.

Planta dense fasciculata foliis angustissime linearibus, sepalis ovatis longi-acuminatis, petalis multangulis, labelli lamina rhombiformi bicallosa.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, densely caespitose-fasciculate; roots fleshy. Ramicauls erect, 2-3 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly linear, acute, 3-6 cm long, 2-2.5 mm wide, gradually narrowed below to the base. Inflorescence a congested, successively few-flowered raceme borne by a peduncle 5-6 mm long, enclosed by a sheath, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, imbricating, 6 mm long; pedicel 6-7 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long, glandular-cellular; sepals light green, more or less spotted with purple, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, 10 mm long including the tail 5 mm long, 4 mm wide, the apex acute, acuminate into the tail, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm to form a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 9 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, connate 1 mm at the base, with a transverse callus above the deflexed base, the margins cellular-erose; petals translucent green, multi-angled-oblong, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex transverse, obliquely truncate, with an acute angle on the upper margin of the apex, with a subacute lobule on the labellar margin; lip light brown, unguiculate, the blade rhombic, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded, minutely denticulate, the base above the claw with a pair of acute, retrose angles, the disc with a pair of erect, triangular lamellae below the middle, the claw 1 mm long, lightly channeled, bilobulate at the base, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; column green, 2.25 mm long, erose-winged on the distal half, denticulate at the apex, the foot equally long.

ECUADOR: Bolívar: epiphytic in cloud forest west of Guaranda toward Balzapamba, alt. 2000 m, 26 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höjjer, J. Kuijt & A. Hirtz 9737, flowers light green (Holotype: MO); same locality and date, C. Luer et al. 9738, flowers spotted with purple (MO).

This little species is apparently endemic on the western slopes of the Andes of central Ecuador. Vegetatively, the ramicauls are produced in dense fascicles with intertwining, fleshy roots. The leaves are narrowly linear. The sepals are acute and long-acuminate. The obtuse petals are acutely angled on the upper margin of the apex, and subacutely angled on the labellar margin, but the shapes and sizes of the angles are variable. The blade of the lip is more or less flat with a broadly rounded, minutely denticulate margin and a pair of erect, triangular calli on the disc.