

Dryadella aurea Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *aureus*, "golden," referring to the yellow-orange flowers.

Species haec *D. simulae* (Rchb.f.) Luer similis, sed habitu floribusque multiminoribus, sepalis aureis non-maculatis, petalis sagittiformibus et labelli lamina crassa suboblunga differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 2-4 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly linear-obovate, acute, 20-30 mm long, 3-3.5 mm wide, gradually narrowed below to the base. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower borne successively in a congested raceme by a peduncle less than 1 mm long, enclosed by a sheath, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, imbricating, 2-3 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 0.75-1 mm long, triolate; sepals clear yellow-orange, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, 5.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex narrowly acute, thickened, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm to form a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm at the base, with a transverse callus above the decurved base, the margins cellular; petals orange, sagittate, 1.75 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the apex obtuse, microscopically undulate, with an obtuse angle on the upper margin and an acute angle on the lower margin; lip yellow-green, unguiculate, the blade thick, sub-oblong, 1.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apex subtruncate to rounded, the base above the claw with a pair of acute angles, the disc with a pair of rounded lamellae just below the middle, the claw 0.75 mm long, bilobulate at the base, channeled longitudinally, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; column green, 1.75 mm long, longitudinally cross-winged on the distal half, bidentate at the apex, the foot equally long.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: Cordillera del Cutucú, epiphytic in forest along the new road between Mendez and Morona, alt. 950 m, 17 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup & A. Hirtz 13963 (Holotype: MO).

PERU: **Pasco**: Oxapampa, Mirador ridge, Río Paujil, Parqué Nacional Yanachaga Chemillén, alt. 700 m, 20 Oct. 1993, R. Fernandez 28 (MO, USM).

This little species occurs in lowland southeastern Ecuador in the Cordillera del Cutucú and northeastern Peru. Superficially, it resembles most of the other species in the genus, but it is characterized by the small habit; narrowly obovate leaves; small, clear, yellow-orange to orange flowers; acute, acuminate but tailless sepals; and a thick, suboblong blade of the lip with a pair of low, rounded carinae below the middle.