

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

Ety.: From the Latin *cuspidatus*, "cuspidate," referring to the descending, tusk-like processes of the column.

Species haec *D. simulae* (Rchb.f.) Luer similis, sed ovario cristato, petalorum margine inferiore cum lobo magno oblique truncato et columnae alis profunde cuspidatis differt.

Plant medium in size to large for the genus, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 5-12 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, more or less suffused with purple, coriaceous, narrowly linear-obovate, subacute to acute, 4-9.5 cm long, 5-6 mm wide, gradually narrowed below to the base. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively few-flowered raceme borne by a peduncle 1-2 mm long, enclosed by a sheath, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, imbricating, 5-10 mm long; pedicel 3-6 mm long, verrucose; ovary 1-1.5 mm long, tricristate; **sepals** yellow-green, diffusely spotted with purple-brown, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, concave, 7-10 mm long including the thick tail 2-3 mm long, 3-5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm to form a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 6-9 mm long including the tail 2-3 mm long, 3 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm at the base, with a transverse callus above the decurved base; **petals** translucent cream with purple markings, suboblong, 2-2.75 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex broadly obtuse, with the upper margin rounded or with a minute angle, and with a decurved, obliquely angled or truncate lobe on the lower margin; **lip** purple, unguiculate, the blade elliptical, 2.5 mm long, 1.75-2 mm wide, the apex rounded, the base above the claw with a pair of acute, retrorse lobules, the disc with a pair of lamellae below the middle, the claw broad, 1 mm long, bilobulate at the base, concave, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; **column** green, 3 mm long, with a marginal pair of descending, narrowly triangular wings near the middle, the foot nearly equally long.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago:** Cordillera del Cutucú, epiphytic in forest along the new road between Mendez and Morona, alt. 950 m, 18 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup & A. Hirtz 13977 (Holotype: MO). **Napo:** Río Jatunyacu above Shandia, alt. 650 m, A. Hirtz & S. Ortega 5373 (MO). **Zamora-Chinchipe:** between Patuca and Santiago, flowered in cultivation 24 Apr. 1990, F. L. Stevenson 91-424-1 (MO).

COLOMBIA: **Putumayo:** above Mocoa, alt. 600-800 m, collected by J.M. Sema, Aug. 1977, flowered in cultivation by M. & O. Robledo at La Ceja, 23 July 1978, C. Luer 2957 (SEL).

This species occurs on the lower, eastern slopes of the Andes of southern Colombia and Ecuador. Superficially, it resembles *D. simulae*, but *D. cuspidata* is distinguished by the crested ovaries with the crests extending onto the carinae of the lateral sepals; more caudate sepals; petals with an obliquely truncate lobe on the lower margin of the apex; and the column with a pair of prominent, acute, descending, toothlike lobes.