

## **Dryadella dodsonii** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named in honor of Calaway H. Dodson who discovered this species.

Inter species generis *Dryadellae* habitu parvo repenti, rhizomate ascendenti, foliis angustissime linearibus, pedunculo pedicelloque brevissimis, floribus parvis punctatis cum sepalis caudatis et petalis brevissimis latissimis distinguitur.

**Plant** small in size for the genus, epiphytic, repent, the rhizome ascending, suberect, 2 mm long between ramicauls; roots slender. Ramicauls ascending, 2-3 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, narrowly linear, canaliculate, acute, 20-25 mm long, 2 wide, 1 mm thick, gradually narrowed below to the subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower borne singly by a peduncle up to 1 mm long, enclosed by a sheath, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract thin, inflated, 3 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long, cellular-glandular; **sepals** yellow, diffusely dotted with red-brown, with the margins and veins cellular glandular externally, the dorsal sepal oblong, concave, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex obtuse, contracted into a thick tail 3.5 mm long, connate to the lateral sepals for less than 1 mm to form a gaping sepaline cup, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, 3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex obtuse, contracted into a tail 3 mm long, connate at the base of 0.75 mm, with a transverse callus above the decurved base; **petals** translucent yellow, dotted with red, transversely ovate-sagittate, 1.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex transversely obtuse, with an obtuse angle on the lower margin at the base with a small callus; **lip** light brown, long-unguiculate, the blade subquadrate, the rounded apex reflexed, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide, the disc with a pair of low, conical calli below the middle, the claw 1.5 mm long, bilobulate at the base, channeled longitudinally, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; **column** slender, 2 mm long, longitudinally winged above the middle with the margins erose, the foot channeled, equally long.

**ECUADOR: Esmeraldas:** epiphytic in moss in pluvial forest west of Lita toward San Lorenzo, alt. 220 m, collected by C.H. Dodson, N.H. Williams & M. Whitten, flowered in cultivation at Río Palenque, 15 Aug. 1991, *C.H. Dodson 18798* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 15527; same area, alt. 300 m, 12 Jan. 1992, *C. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 15580* (MO).

**COLOMBIA: Valle del Cauca:** Buenaventura, Quebrada Yesqueros, old road between Cali and Buenaventura, alt. 50 m, 9 May 1997, *J.T. Otero & B. Angulo C. 1003* (CUVC, MO).

This little species, superficially resembling a species of *Pachyphyllum*, was found growing in deep moss in lowland northwestern Ecuador where the rainfall is exceedingly great. *Dryadella dodsonii* is distinguished by the repent, ascending, suberect to erect habit with suberect, slender leaves two millimeters wide. The peduncle and pedicel of the tiny flower are extremely short, placing the flower at the bottom of a leaf. The sepals are spotted with slender tails about as long as the blade, and the broad, flabellate petals are extremely short.