

***Dryadella mocoana* Luer & R.Escobar, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for the community of Mocoa in southern Colombia, where the species was collected.

Species haec *D. cuspidatae* Luer & Hirtz similis, sed sepalorum caudis brevioribus, petalorum lobo descendenti truncato, et labelli laminae callis denticulatis differt.

Plant medium in size to large for the genus, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 5-10 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, the midrib purple, 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 successively few-flowered raceme borne by a peduncle 5-9 mm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, imbricating, 3-10 mm long; pedicel 5-6 mm long, verrucose; ovary 1-1.5 mm long, tricristate; **sepals** yellow-green, diffusely spotted with purple-brown, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, concave, 8 mm long including the thick tail 3 mm long, 4 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.5 mm to form a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, acute, 8 mm long including the tail 2 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, 2.75 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the apex broadly obtuse, with a decurved, obliquely truncate lobe on the lower margin; **lip** purple, unguiculate, the blade elliptical, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex rounded, the base above the claw with a pair of acute, retrorse lobules, the disc with a pair of denticulate 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, suffused with purple, 3 mm long, with a pair of descending, triangular wings 1 mm long, near the middle, the foot 3 mm long.

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

This species from southernmost Colombia is similar to *Dryadella cuspidata* of southeastern Ecuador. The habit and flowers are superficially similar. It differs from the latter by broader sepals and shorter tails. Instead of a pair of low, smooth calli on the blade of the lip, the pair of calli are taller and denticulate. Instead of a thick triangular process descending from the column, the descending process of *D. mocoana* is short and truncate.

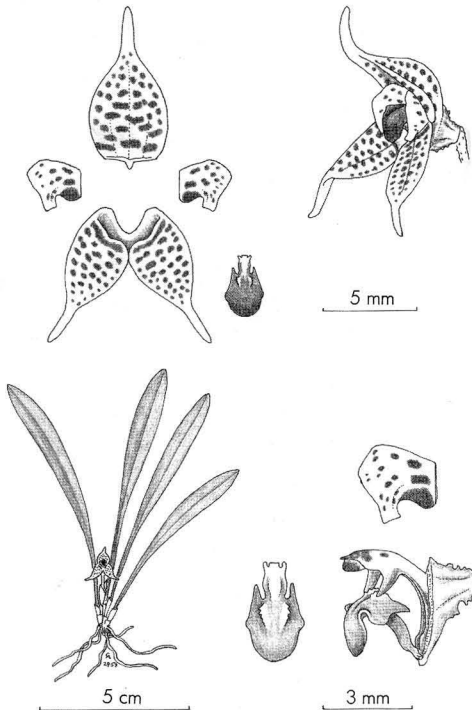


Fig. 31. *Dryadella mocoana*