

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

Ety.: From the Latin *nasutus*, "with a big nose," referring to the thick tip of the dorsal sepal.

Inter species generis *Dryadellae*, planta perparva caespitosa, foliis crassis linearibus, racemis longipedicellatis folio brevioribus, sepalo dorsali ad apicem crassissimo, sepalis lateralibus brevicaudatis.

Plant small, epiphytic, ascending-caespitose; roots fleshy. Ramicauls erect, 3-8 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly linear-elliptic, obtuse, 10-25 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, narrowed below to the base. **Inflorescence** 2-3 erect, successively several-flowered racemes to 15 mm long, including the peduncle 2-4 mm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, 2-3 mm long; pedicels 2-6 mm long; ovary 0.5-1.5 mm long, tri-lobate; **sepals** light yellow, orange toward the base, the dorsal sepal elliptical, concave, 4 mm long, 2.75 mm wide unexpanded, 3-veined, the apex contracted into a thick, 1-mm-long tail, shallowly connate to the lateral sepals into a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, obtuse, 3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 0.5 mm at the base, with a transverse callus above the decurved base, the apex contracted into a tail 1 mm long; **petals** orange, hastate-subquadrate, 1.3 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the apex broadly obtuse, with an obtuse, rounded angle on both margins; **lip** unguiculate, the blade obovate, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded, decurved, the base above the claw with a pair of acute, retrorse angles, the disc with a pair of low, oblique lamellae below the middle, the claw 0.75 mm long, bilobulate at the base, shallowly channeled longitudinally, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; **column** 1.25 mm long, longitudinally winged on the distal half with a pair of acute teeth at the apex, the foot thick, equally long.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: El Pangui, collected and cultivated by Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, 2 May 2004, A. Hirtz 8738 (Holotype: MO; Isotype: QCNE); Gualaquiza, alt. 800 m, cultivated at Ecuagenera, June 2004, A. Hirtz 8803, 8926 (MO).

This little species is known only from southeastern Ecuador. Among all the other species of the genus, it is most similar to *Dryadella lueriana* from Cerro Guaiquini in Venezuela. *Dryadella nasuta* is distinguished by the small, caespitose habit; thick, narrow leaves, and small, yellow, unspotted flowers borne successively in a conspicuously long-pedicellate raceme that is about half as long as the leaf. The sepals terminate in short, thick tails.

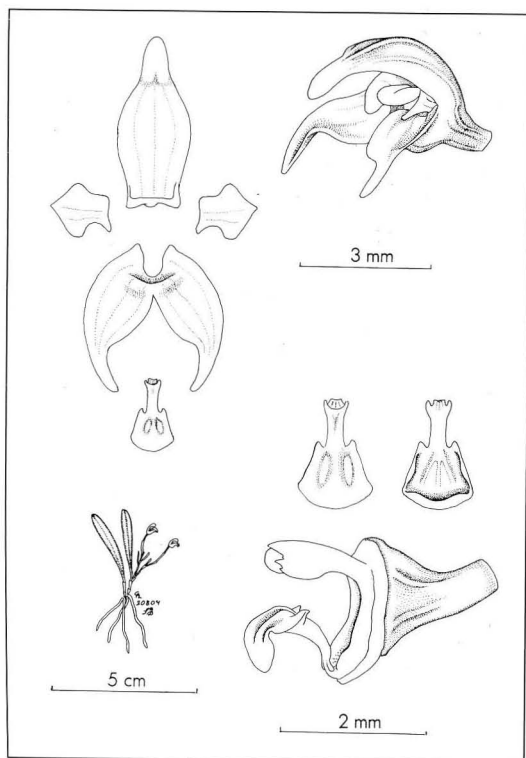


Fig. 32. *Dryadella nasuta*