

**Dryadella nortonii** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Darrin Norton of Mountain Orchids, Ludlow, VT, USA, who cultivates this species.

Inter species generis *Dryadellae* planta parva, foliis crassissimis, sepalis lateralibus triangularibus acutis, petalis dolabriformibus, columna late alata distinguitur.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 2-3 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, ellipsoid, subacute to obtuse, 12-20 mm long, 3.5-4.5 mm wide, 2-2.5 mm thick, cuneate below into the sessile base. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively few-flowered raceme borne by a peduncle 2-3 mm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, imbricating, 4 mm long; pedicel 4-5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long, tripartite; **sepals** fleshy, greenish, spotted with purple, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, contracted in the distal third into a thick tail-like apex, 7.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm to form a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals triangular, oblique, acute, 7 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, barely connate, with a transverse callus above the decurved base; **petals** translucent, spotted with purple, dolabriform, angled on both sides below the obtuse tip, 2.25 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined; **lip** green, unguiculate, the blade elliptical-obovate, acutely deflexed near the middle, 2 mm long expanded, 1.75 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded, entire, the base above the claw with a pair of small, short angles, the disc with a pair of low lamellae below the middle, the claw 1 mm long, bilobulate at the base, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; **column** green, 2 mm long, obtusely winged from below the middle, the foot 2.5 mm long.

BOLIVIA: Without collection data, cultivated by Daryl Norton, 1996, *C. Luer 17811* (Holotype: MO).

This very small species with thickly coriaceous leaves is similar vegetatively to *Dryadella lilliputiana* as well as other very small species of the genus. However, this species is distinguished by fleshy, triangular sepals that are acute without tails. The petals of the two species do not differ significantly. The calli on the blade of the lip are low and rounded in *D. nortonii*, instead of erect and acute or subacute.

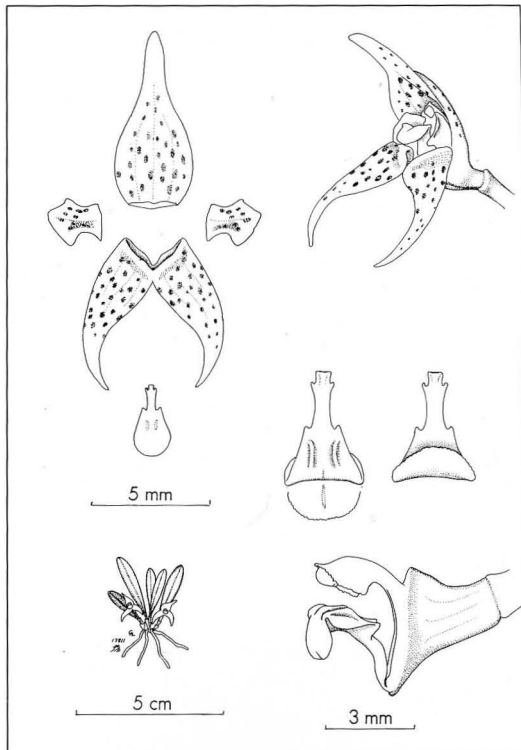


Fig. 33. *Dryadella nortonii*