

**Dryadella sororcula** Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: PANAMA. Bocas del Toro: epiphytic in tall, wet forest between Fortuna and Chiriquí Grande, alt. 350 m, 17 Feb. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Dressler & K. Dressler 10606 (Holotype: MO). Fig. 2.

Species haec *Dryadellae simulae* (Rchb.f.) Luer similis, sed habitu minore, floribus minoribus et petalis oblique sagittatis marginibus angulatis non-lobulatis differt.

**Plant** small in size for the genus, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender but proportionately coarse. Ramicauls erect, 1–5 mm long, enclosed by 2–3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-obovate, acute to subacute, 8–25 mm long, 3–4 mm wide, gradually narrowed below to the subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower borne successively in a congested raceme by a peduncle 1–2 mm long, enclosed by a sheath, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, imbricating, 2 mm long; pedicel 1.5–3 mm long; ovary 0.75–1 mm long, tripartite; **sepals** greenish, diffusely dotted with purple, often in small, transverse bars, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, obtuse, contracted into a short, more or less thickened tail, 4–5 mm long including the tail, 2–2.25 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm to form a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 3–4 mm long, 2–2.25 mm wide, the apex obtuse, shortly acuminate into a tail 1–2 mm long, barely connate at the base, with a transverse callus above the decurved base; **petals** translucent, marked with purple, subquadrate, sagittate, 1.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex obtuse, obtusely or subacutely angled on both margins below the apex; **lip** purple to brown, long-unguiculate, the blade subquadrate, the sides and apex reflexed, 1.5 mm

long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded, the base above the claw with a pair of acute lobules directed posteriorly, the disc with a low rounded pair of calli from the claw flanking a deep, central cleft, the claw 0.5 mm long, bilobulate at the base, channeled longitudinally, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; **column** green, marked with purple, 1.5–2 mm long, longitudinally winged in the distal half, the foot equally long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *sororcula*, “a little sister,” referring to the similarity to the larger *Dryadella simula*.

This species, commonly identified as *Dryadella simula* is widely distributed in Central America from Honduras into Panama. It is illustrated by Fritz Hamer in the *Orchids of Nicaragua*.

*Dryadella sororcula* from the relatively low lands of Central America is distinguished from the Andean *D. simula* of higher altitudes by the smaller habit and smaller flowers. The petals are more or less sagittate and obtuse at the apex with angles on both margins below the apex. The characteristic lobule below the apex of the petal of *D. simula* is not present.

PARATYPES: PANAMA: Chiriquí: Fortuna dam site, alt. ca. 1000 m, collected 1977, flowered in cultivation 1978, C. Luer 2237 (SEL). COSTA RICA. without locality, collected by Tineke Mulder, flowered in cultivation at Wageningen, Holland, 4 Sept. 1987, C. Luer 12957 (MO). NICARAGUA. Granada: Summit of Volcán Mom-bacho, alt. 1200 m, Atwood & Neill 7042 (MO). EL SALVADOR. Morazán: Perquín-Sabanetas, alt. 1700 m, Hamer 155 & 424 (SEL). HONDURAS. without locality, collected by Fred Fuchs, flowered in cultivation, 31 Aug. 1981, C. Luer 6450 (SEL).

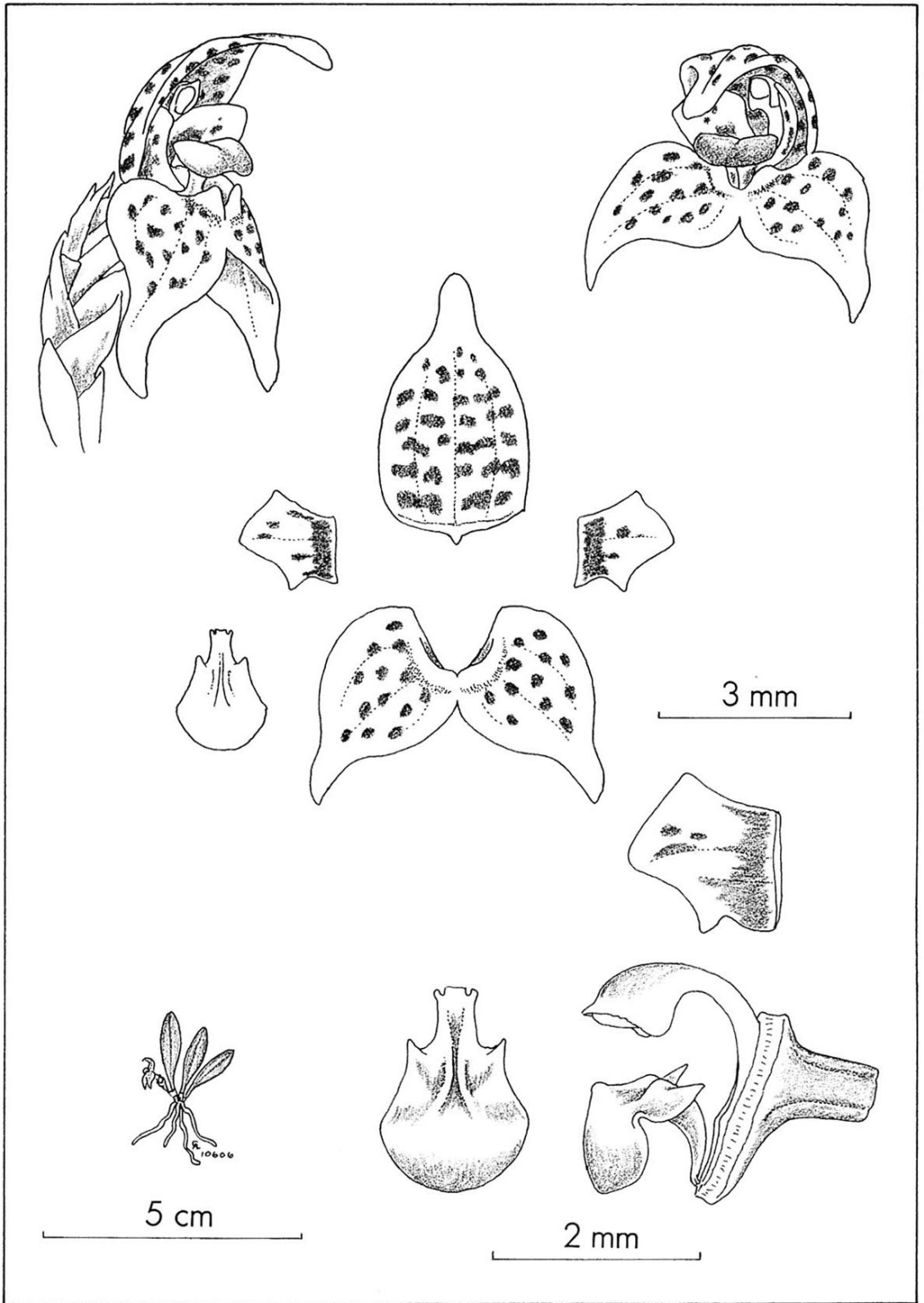


Fig. 2. *Dryadella sororcula*