

CHONDRORHYNCHA LITENSIS Dodson

Chondrorhyncha litensis Dodson, sp. nov.

Latin diagnosis: Species haec *Chondrorhynchae hirtzii* Dodson similis, sed labellicallo 7-dentato cum carina ad basim, cum processus binati pubescentibus digitiformibus infra stigma, et columnae alis ovatis differt.

Type: ECUADOR: ESMERALDAS: km 12, Lita to Alto Tambo, 850 m, 7 Jul 1988, *Dodson & Gentry 17570* (Holotype - QCNE, Isotype - RPSC).

Epiphytic. Stem very short, completely surrounded by imbricating distichous foliaceous leaf sheaths; roots produced in the axils of the lower leaves. Leaves strap-shaped, acute at the apex, tapering to the junction with the sheath at the base, to 22 x 3 cm. Inflorescences from the axils of the basal leaf sheaths; 1-flowered; to 12 cm long; with 1 or 2 appressed ovate bracts. Sepals and petals yellow-white; lip blotched with dark red. Dorsal sepal oblong-ovate, obtuse at the apex, erect, recurved toward the apex, 3 x 0.9 cm; lateral sepals obliquely oblong-ovate, acute at the apex, spreading-curved, 3.2 x 1.1 cm; petals spatulate obovate, obtuse and recurved at the apex, 3 x 0.9 cm; lip obovate, bilobed at the apex, flared for the apical 1/4, 3.5 x 3 cm, with a broad, raised 7-toothed callus on the disc, with a central keel, high at the base, low in the middle and terminating in the central tooth; column subterete, flattened on the underside, with small, ovate wings, and a pair of pubescent protuberances on each side of the stigma; pollinia 4.

Epífita. Tallo muy corto, completamente rodeado por vainas foliares, dísticas, imbricándose, raíces producidas en las axilas de las hojas inferiores. Hojas en forma de tiras, agudas, adelgándose hasta la unión con la vaina en la base. Inflorescencia desde las axilas de las vainas foliares basales; uniflora. Sépalos y pétalos amarillo-blanco, labio manchado con rojo obscuro; sépalos laterales separándose, recurvados; labio obovado bilobado en el ápice, acampanado en la 4ta sección apical con un simple callo levantado en el disco, 7-dentado, con una quilla alzada en la base de la línea central, roma en la porción media; columna subterete, aplanado en el envés, con alas pequeñas y un par de protuberancias pubescentes debajo del estigma; polinios 4.

Distribution: Ecuador and Colombia.

Etymology: Named for the region of occurrence.

Other Specimens Seen: COLOMBIA: Nariño: La Planada, 1400 m, *Neudecker 11* (Photo at RPSC).

Observations: Similar to *C. hirtzii* Dodson but with a 7-toothed callus with a central keel that is raised toward the base, the pair of pubescent finger-like protuberances under the stigma and the small ovate wings on the column.

Habitat: Epiphyte in pluvial montane forest.

Flowering season: Most of the year.

Illustration voucher: Dodson & Gentry 17570.

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