

HIRTZIA BENZINGII Dodson

HIRTZIA Dodson, gen. nov.

Herbae *Leochili* Knowles & Westc., *Capanemia* Barb. Rodr. et *Hybolchili* Schltr. affines sed habitu equitanti, labello simplici, columnae alis porrectis prominentibus et rostello bifido different.

Allied to *Leochilus* Knowles & Westc., *Capanemia* Barb. Rodr., and *Hybochilus* Schltr. but distinguished by the equitant habit, simple lip, porrect and prominent column wings surrounding the stigma and the bifid rostellum.

Etymology: This genus is named to honor Alexander Hirtz of Quito, Ecuador, who has made major contributions to the knowledge of the orchids of Ecuador.

Type: *Hirtzia benzingii* Dodson.

Hirtzia benzingii Dodson, sp. nov.

Species haec sepalis petalisque flavis rubrofasciatis, columnae alis oblongis et ovario sine alis distinguitur.

Epiphytic. Stems short; pseudobulbs lacking. Leaves equitant, conduplicate, oblique, to 5 × 0.5 cm, acuminate at the apex. Inflorescences from the axils of the upper leaves, to 5 cm long; 3- to 5-flowered; floral bracts triangular, 3 mm long; ovary pedicellate, wingless, to 5 mm long, elongating in fruit. Sepals and petals erect, yellow barred with dark red, the lip white; dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, obtuse at the apex, free, to 5 × 3 mm; lateral sepals united to the midpoint, apices divergent; petals narrowly ovate-triangular, acute at the apex, to 5 × 2 mm; lip simple, obscurely lobed on each side toward the apex, concave in front of the callus, to 5 × 2 mm, the callus a fleshy pad; column slightly flattened dorsoventrally, to 5 mm long, the apex with a pair of porrect, oblong wings, retuse at the apex, to 1.5 cm long, surrounding the stigma; the rostellum bifid, erect; anther dorsal; pollinia 2.

Epifítica. Tallos cortos; pseudobulbos ausentes. Hojas equitantes, conduplicadas. Inflorescencia desde las axilas de las hojas superiores. Sépalos y pétalos erectos, con rayas amarillas con rojo oscuro, el labio blanco; sépalos laterales unidos en la mitad, ápices divergentes; pétalos angostamente ovado-trianguulares; labio simple, obscuramente lobado en cada lado

hacia el ápice, cóncavo delante del callo, el callo una almohadilla carnosa; columna ligeramente aplanada dorsoventralmente, hasta 5 mm de largo, el ápice con un par de alas oblongas, retusas en el ápice, rodeando el estigma; el rostelo bifido, erecto; antera dorsal; 2 polinios.

Distribution: Eastern Ecuador.

Etymology: Named to honor Dr. David Benzing who helped in the collection of the species.

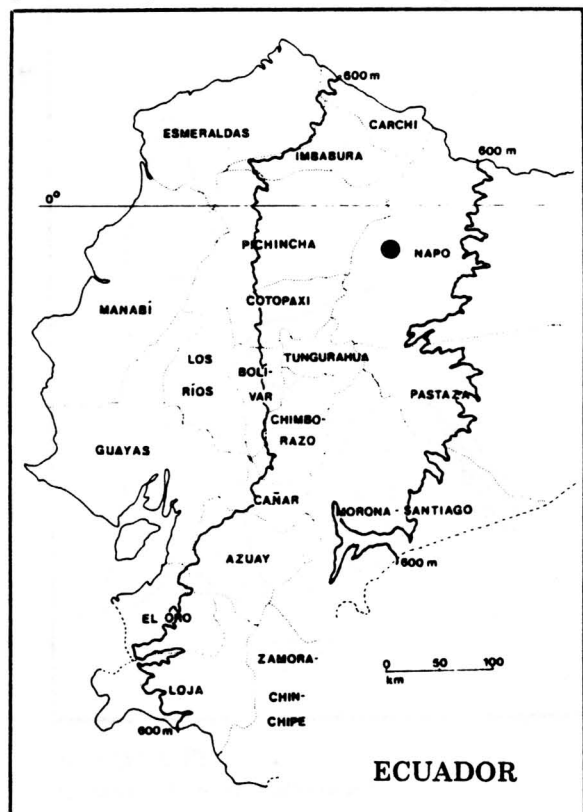
TYPE: ECUADOR: NAPO: Cosanga, km 112 Quito-Tena, alt. 1850 m, 17 June 1983, Dodson et al. 14029 (Holotype: SEL; Isotype: MO, ECU).

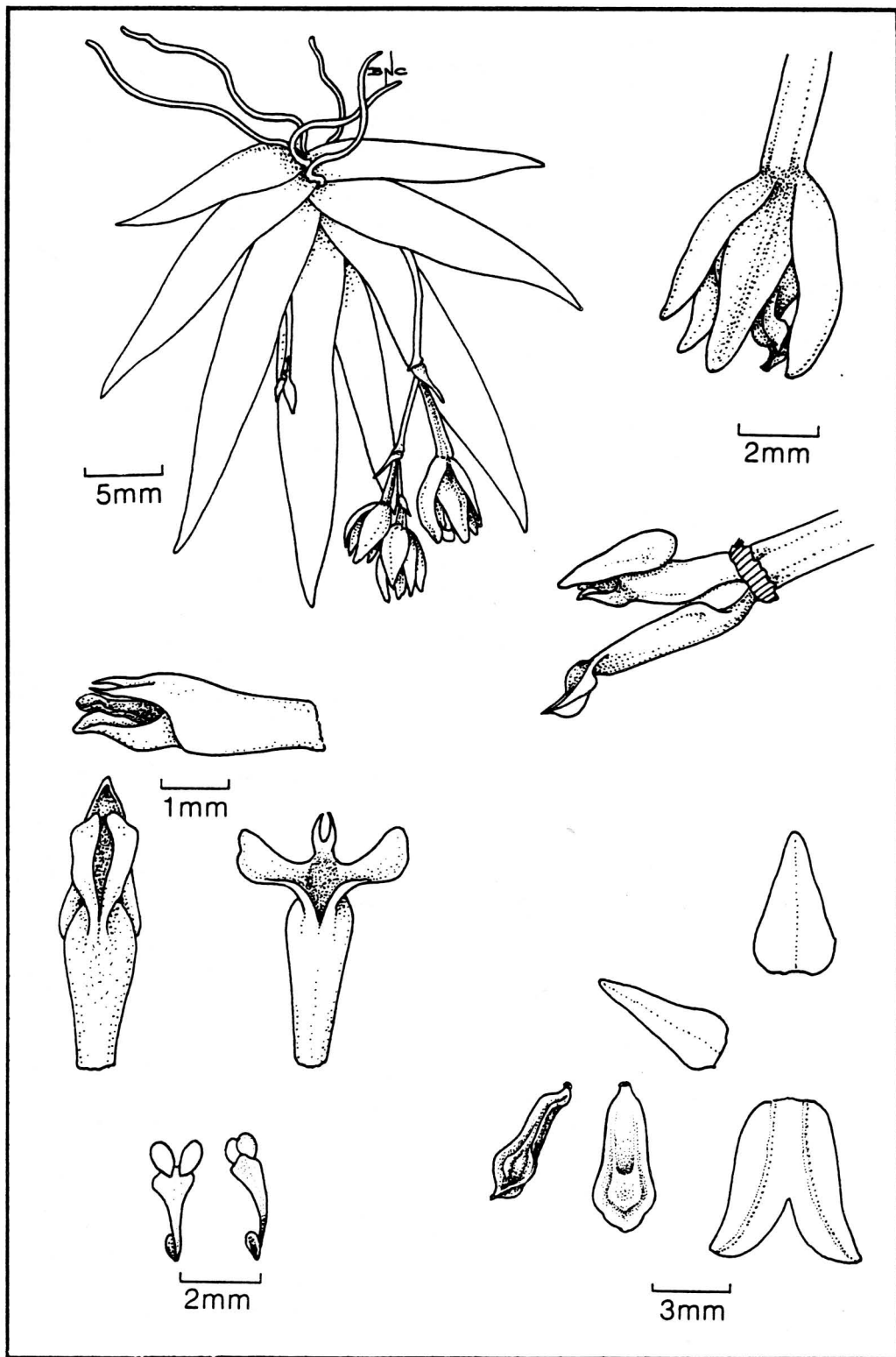
Observations: Distinguished by the equitant habit, sepals and petals yellow barred with red, wingless ovary and the porrect, oblong column wings.

Habitat: Epiphyte on slender twigs at the top of small trees near the river in montane wet forest.

Flowering season: Most of the year but principally May to July.

Illustration voucher: Dodson et al. 14029.





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