

9. **PRESCOTTIA LOJANA** Dodson, sp. nov.

Similis *Prescottiae cordifoliae* Rchb. f., a qua distinguitur foliis pluribus valde obscure viridibus coriaceis, margine albo-hyalino denticulato, caulibus rubris et floribus obscure viridibus.

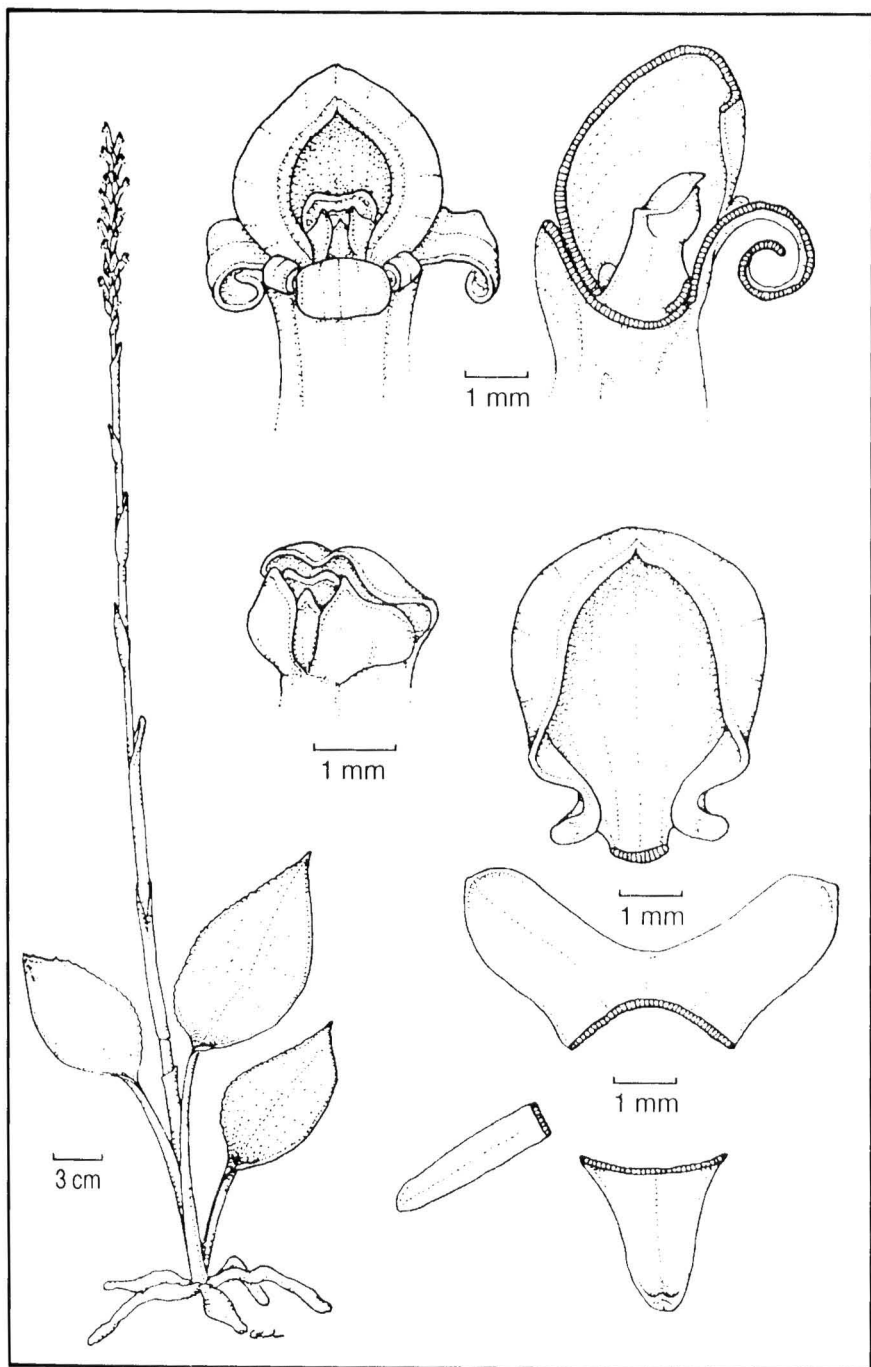
Orig. Coll: Ecuador: Zamora-Chinchipe: Yangana to Valladolid, east side of pass, 2800 m, 23 March 1985, *A. Hirtz, C. & J. Luer, & W. Flores 2298* (holotype RPSC).

OTHER SPECIMENS SEEN: Ecuador: Zamora-Chinchipe: Loja to Zamora, along old camino de herradura, 2750 m, 18 November 1961, *Dodson & Thien 1327* (RPSC,SEL), same locality, 29 December 1990, *Dodson et al. 10570* (SEL), Yangana to Valladolid, southeast side of pass, 2800 m, 4 February 1985, *Harling & Andersson 21577* (GB,QCA), same locality, 2700 m, 14 February 1989, *Ollgaard & Madsen 90554* (AAU),. Loja: Loja to Zamora, km 14, west of pass, 2750 m, *Hirtz et al. 2626* (MO), Parque Nacional Podocarpus, Cerro Toledo, 3350 m, 1 December 1988, *Madsen 75723* (AAU), Parque Nacional Podocarpus, Lagunas de Compadre, 3000 m, 21 November 1989, *Madsen 86457* (AAU), Parque Nacional Podocarpus, Centro de Informacion, 1900 m, 16 Jun 1988, *Ollgaard et al 74885* (AAU).

ETIMOLOGIA: Nombrada por la región de Loja, en cuyas montañas parece ser endémica la especie.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the region of Loja, where the species appears to be endemic in the surrounding mountains.

Terrestrial on steep embankments to 55 cm tall (commonly much smaller). Roots fleshy, villose. Stem with inflorescence to 55 cm tall, red. Leaves forming a basal rosette, stiffly erect, fleshy with a hyaline-white, denticulate margin; petiole channeled, to 10 cm long; blade ovate, acute, rounded to cordate at the base, to 10 x 5 cm. Scape erect; peduncle several-sheathed which decrease in size upwards, red; spike cylindric, loosely many-flowered; floral bracts narrowly ovate, acuminate, shorter than the flowers, to 1 cm long. Flowers fleshy, dark green; sepals and petals strongly recurved-coiled;



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dorsal sepal broadly triangular-ovate, obtuse, to 2 x 2 mm; lateral sepals connate at the base, forming a cup around the base of the lip, the free portion oblong, obtuse, to 3 x 1.5 mm; petals oblong, obtuse, to 2.5 x 0.5 mm; lip very fleshy, cucullate, ovoid in outline, margins involute, to 5 x 4 mm in natural position, with a pair of falcate, diverging, fleshy lobes toward the base. Column terete, broad at the base, clavate at the apex, to 2 mm long; ovary clyndric-fusiform, sessile, costate to 1 cm long; pollinia 4, granular.

NOTAS: Un ejemplar de esta especie (Dodson & Thien 1327) fue tratado como *Prescottia cordifolia* Rchb.f. por Garay (1978). El ejemplar no tiene cabida en su clave por tener varias hojas en contraposición a *P. cordifolia* la cual es unifoliada. Las láminas de las hojas, carnosamente coriáceas, son de cordatas a redondeadas en la base, parecidas a las de *P. cordifolia*. *Prescottia lojana* se diferencia por la presencia de varias hojas las cuales son de color verde oscuro, coriáceas, con márgenes denticuladas, blanquecinas, tallos rojos y flores de color verde oscuro.

NOTES: A specimen of this species (Dodson & Thien 1327) was treated as *Prescottia cordifolia* Rchb.f by Garay (1978). The specimens do not fit in his key because they have several leaves as opposed to *P. cordifolia* which is unifoliate. They do have fleshy-coriaceous leaf blades that are cordate to rounded at the base similar to those of *P. cordifolia*. The species is distinguished by the presence of several leaves that are very dark green, coriaceous, with a hyaline-white, denticulate margin, red stems, and dark green flowers.