

Salpistele dressleri Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named in honor of Dr. Robert L. Dressler, formerly of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Balboa, Canal Zone, Panama, who described the genus, and who collected this species.

Species haec *S. brunneae* Dressler affinis, sed sepalis angustioribus, labello minore, et columna graciliore longioreque differt.

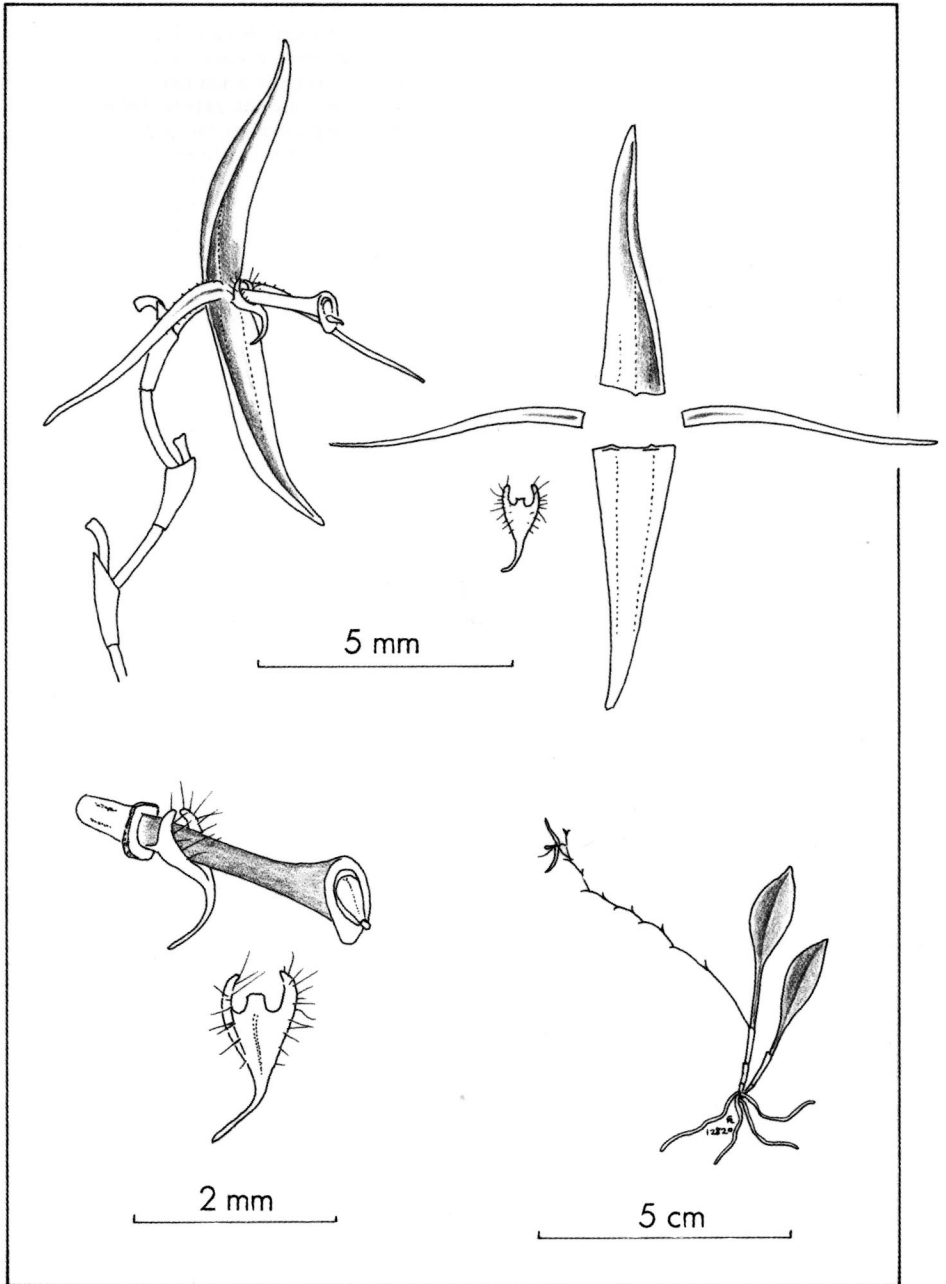
Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 12-15 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, petiolate, acute to subacute, 20-28 mm long including a petiole 5-7 mm long, 6-8 mm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a successively several-flowered, flexuous raceme up to 6 cm long including the peduncle 1.5 cm long, from high on the ramicaul, more or less creeping; floral bract oblique, acute, 2 mm long; pedicel 2-3 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow-brown, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, acute, concave, 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals totally connate into a narrowly ovate-triangular, acute, concave synsepal, 5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide expanded, bicarinate; **petals** yellow-brown, sparsely ciliate, narrowly linear, acute, 5 mm long, 0.4 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** yellow, sparsely long-pubescent, 3-lobed, 1.5 mm long, 1 mm wide expanded, "Y-shaped," the lateral lobes narrowly uncinatate, surrounding the column, the middle lobe slender, descending, 0.5 mm long, the base unguiculate, attached to the base of the column; **column** yellow, slender, terete, 3 mm long, dilated at the apex to form a flat, elliptical surface 1 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, surrounding the apical anther and stigma.

PANAMA: Prov. of Chiriquí: Fortuna, collected by R. L. Dressler, sent to J & L Orchids, Easton, CT, ca. 1979, flowered in cultivation, 25 Apr. 1987, *C. Luer 12820* (Holotype: MO).

About 1979, a plant of this species was collected by R. L. Dressler near Fortuna in the Chiriquí province of western Panama. Because it was not in flower, he dispatched it to J & L Orchids in Connecticut for cultivation. Today it continues to grow and flower well. A photograph of this species, identified as *S. lutea*, was included on page 15 in the article in which the genus *Salpistele* was described (*Orquideología*, vol. 14, No. 1).

Among the Central American species of the genus, *S. dressleri* is distinguished by narrow, yellow-brown sepals; a slender but deeply concave or boat-shaped dorsal sepal and synsepal; slender, linear petals; a much smaller lip with slender, sparsely long-ciliate lateral lobes and descending midlobe; and a comparatively small, elliptical surface of the apex of the column.



Plate 2. *Salpistele dressleri* Luer