

**Salpistele parvula** Luer & Dressler, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *parvulus*, "very small," referring to the habit and flowers.

Species haec *S. brunneae* Dressler affinis, sed habitu floribusque minoribus et labello longivilloso anguste sagittato differt.

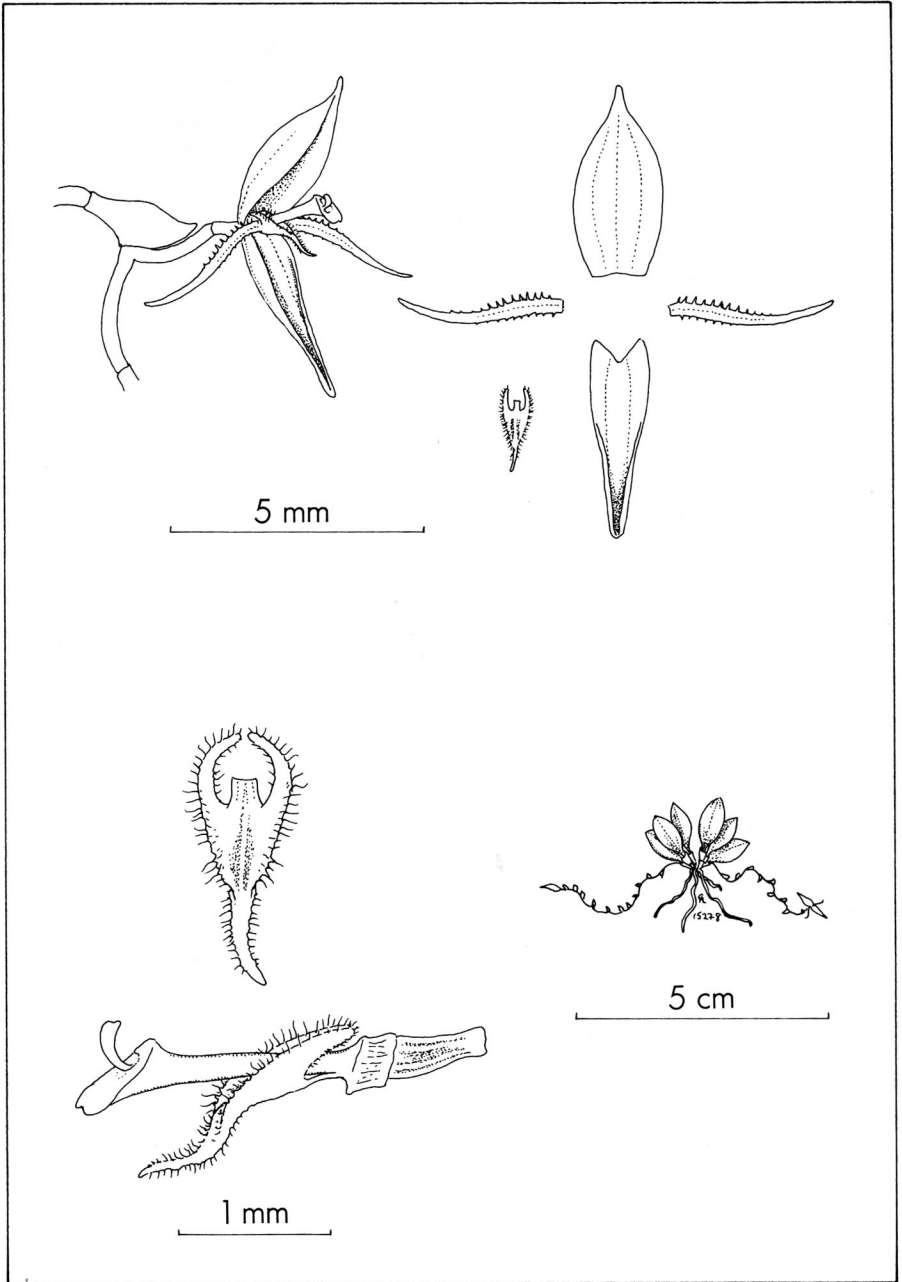
**Plant** very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-4 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute, 8-12 mm long including a petiole 1-1.5 mm long, 3-5 mm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a creeping, successively several-flowered, flexuous raceme up to 3 cm long including the peduncle 4-5 mm long, from the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, oblique, 1.25 mm long; pedicel 1.5 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; **sepals** red-brown with yellow streaks and margins, the dorsal sepal narrowly elliptical, acute, lightly short-acuminate, concave, 3.75 mm long, 1.75 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals totally connate into a bicarinate, narrowly ovate-triangular, cymbiform, acute synsepal, 4 mm long, 1 mm wide; **petals** ciliate-denticulate, narrowly linear, acute, 3.25 mm long, 0.25 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** long-villous-pubescent, sagittate, 3-lobed, 1.75 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, "Y-shaped," the basal lobes narrowly uncinat, surrounding the column, the middle lobe slender, narrowly acute, descending, the base unguiculate, attached to the base of the column; **column** slender, terete, 1.8 mm long, dilated at the apex to form a flat, ovate-triangular surface, 0.4 mm wide, surrounding the apical anther and stigma.

PANAMA: Prov. of Coclé: hills north of El Valle de Antón, alt. ca. 900 m, 3 Dec. 1978, R. L. Dressler 5832 (Holotype: MO; Isotype: FLAS).

Although the size of the plants of the other Central American species of *Salpistele* varies considerably, none produces plants as small as those of this species collected by Dressler in the hills above El Valle de Antón. Here this species grows abundantly on the trunks of large trees, but it has not yet been found elsewhere.

*Salpistele parvula* is distinguished by the tiny, caespitose habit. The successively flowered racemes creep amid the surrounding vegetative debris as is seen in the related, larger species. The resupinate, gaping flowers are very small, the sepals measuring less than four millimeters in length. The petals are very slender and ciliate. The tiny lip is sagittate and long-villous. Although similar in size and shape to that of *S. dressleri*, the lip is nearly as long as the cylindrical column. The lip of *S. dressleri* is much smaller than the column.



Plate 4. *Salpistele parvula* Luer & Dressler