

DICHAEA CAVEROI D. E. Benn. & Christenson

Dichaea caveroi D. E. Benn. & Christenson, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: PERU: AMAZONAS: Condorcanqui, from area closely surrounding the Border Guard Post 'Alfonso Ugarte' PV-3, 1300 m, Aug 1994, *M. Caverio B. 1660 ex Bennett 6725* (holotype: Herb. Bennettianum).

Species haec *D. benzingii* Dods. similis sed foliis arcuatis, labello ecalloso, viridifloribus, tabula infrastigmata ligulato differt.

Pseudomonopodial **epiphytes**. **Stems** elongate, leafy throughout, sparsely branching, to 40 cm long. **Leaves** extremely narrowly linear, acute, arcuate, with minutely ciliolate margins, to 5 x 0.2 cm. **Inflorescences** solitary flowers, the **peduncles** long-persistent, to 1.2 cm long. **Flowers** cupped, green, the claw with a transverse purple bar. **Sepals** and **petals** subsimilar, subequal, oblong to oblong-lanceolate, acute, 7 x 2.5-3 mm, the **sepals** minutely carinate-apiculate, sparsely pusticulate on the reverse. **Labellum** obscurely three-lobed, elliptic in outline, concave, with short, blunt, subanchoriform lateral lobules, 6 x 3.3 mm. **Column** erect with a central constriction, 3.6 mm long, the **clinandrium** hooded, the **tabula infrastigmatica** ligulate, elongate, minutely tridentate at the apex, ciliate.

Etymology: Named for our colleague Moises Caverio B. who collected the type specimen in remote northern Peru.

Distribution: Peru.

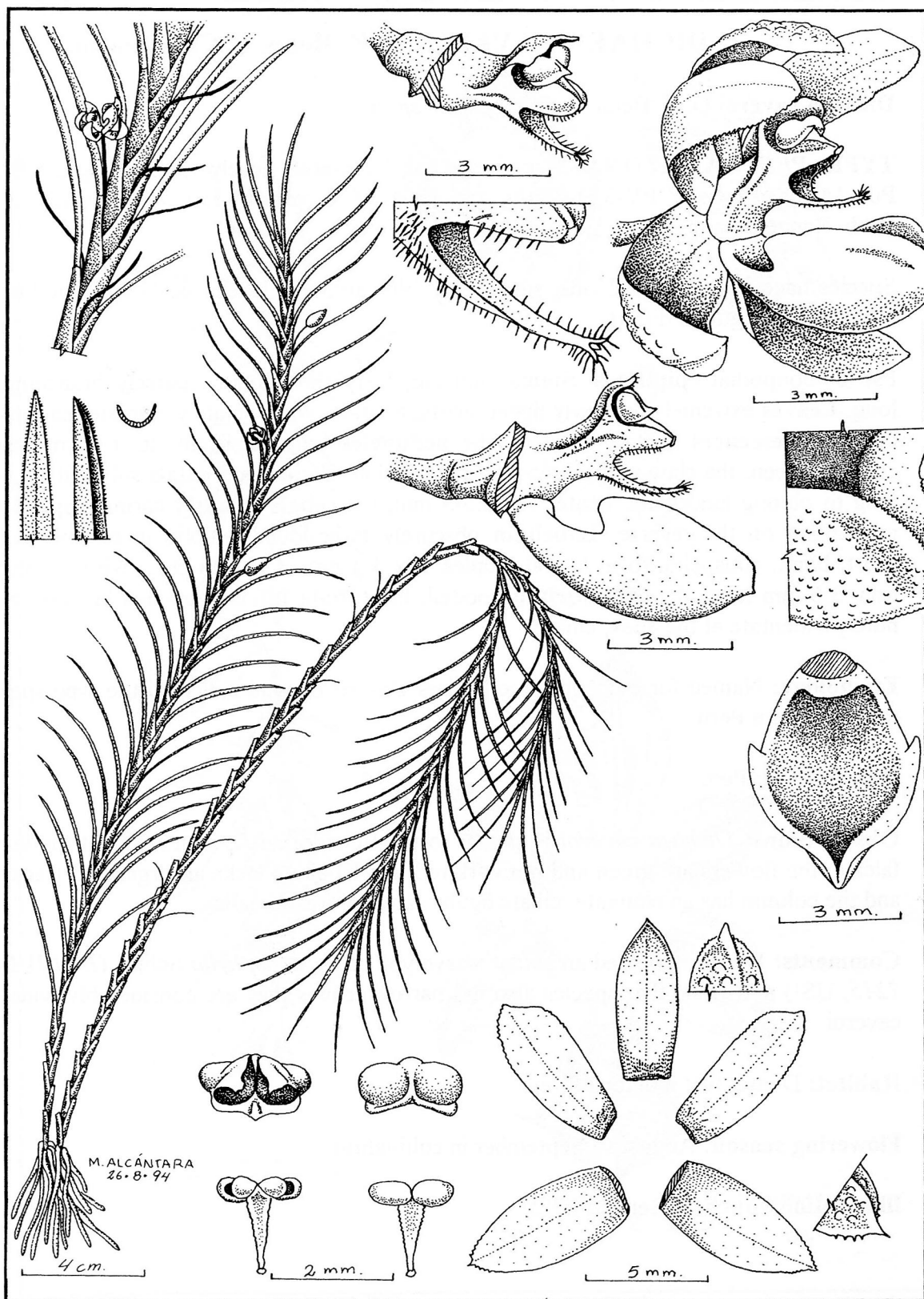
Observations: *Dichaea caveroi* is similar to the Ecuadorian *D. benzingii* but the leaves are not falcate, the flowers are green and not dark red, the labellum lacks an organized transverse callus, and the column has an elongate, ciliate ligular tabula infrastigmatica.

Comments: We have located an extant isosyntype of *D. stenophylla* Schltr. (**BOLIVIA:** *Buchtien 7215*, US!) and while that species also has narrow leaves they are considerably wider than in *D. caveroi*.

Habitat: Dense, wet montane forest.

Flowering season: August to September in cultivation.

Illustration voucher: Bennett 6725.



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Icones Orchidacearum Peruvianarum