

Dracula hirsuta Luer & Andreetta, sp. nov.

Inter species generis Draculae Luer species haec foliis angustis, flore mediocri cupula non profunda, sepalis atropurpureis dense hirsutis, petalis bivalvatis et hypochilio labelli ovato obtuso concavo multilamellato distinguitur.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse, flexuous. Secondary stems erect, channeled, unifoliate, 4-5.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, imbricating sheaths. Leaf erect to slightly arching, thinly coriaceous, carinate dorsally, very narrowly obovate, 16-28 cm long, 1.5-1.8 cm wide, the apex subacute, tridenticulate, gradually narrowed below into the conduplicate base. Inflorescence a few-flowered, congested raceme of successive flowers borne by a red, descending peduncle 5-9 cm long, with a few, distant bracts, from a node low on the secondary stem; floral bract 15 mm long; pedicel 10 mm long; ovary 4 mm long; sepals glabrous and reddish purple externally, dark purple with a dense, purple pubescence within, the dorsal sepal broadly ovate, 12 mm long, 12 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 5 mm to form a broad, shallow sepaline cup, the apex obtuse, with a few white hairs near the margin, contracted into a slender, maroon tail ca. 6.5 cm long, the lateral sepals white along the inferior margin with white hairs, ovate, oblique, 18 mm long, 11 mm wide, connate 13 mm to form an obtuse, shallow mentum, the subacute apices contracted into tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; petals yellow, marked with purple, oblong, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex bivalvate, verrucose between the laminae, the internal lamina denticulate, the outer rounded and recurved; lip white, spatulate, 10 mm long, 6 mm wide, the hypochile obovate, 4 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, with erect, obtuse marginal angles, cleft centrally, the concave base hinged to the column-foot, the epichile ovate, 6 mm long, 6 mm wide, concave with erect, denticulate margins, the apex rounded, the concavity filled with 3 (sometimes 5) tall, radiating, undulating lamellae plus shorter, incomplete segments; column yellow, semiterete, 3 mm long, with a short, thick foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin hirsutus, "covered with erect hairs," in reference to the hirsute sepals.

TYPE: ECUADOR: MORONA-SANTIAGO: epiphytic in wet forest near Rio Calagras, alt. 1600 m, April 1979, A. Andreetta & M. Portilla, cultivated in Cuenca, flowered in cult. 29 Sept. 1980, C. Luer 5591 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); same locality, 19 Sept. 1980, C. Luer et al. 5506A (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Ecuador.

Although similar to many species with narrow leaves and medium-sized flowers, this species may be distinguished by the dark purple, densely hirsute flowers, and a white lip with a relatively small, concave, multilamellate epichile.