

Dresslerella cloesii Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Patrick Cloes of Hasselt, Belgium, collector of this species.

Species haec *Dresslerellae caesariatae* Luer affinis, sed habitu floreque minore, et labelli callo trifurcato distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Ramicauls erect, suberect to horizontal, stout, 1.5-3.5 cm long, enclosed by 3-4 pubescent, imbricating sheaths. **Leaf** erect to suberect, thickly coriaceous, dark green, covered on both sides by white trichomes, elliptic-oblong, subacute, 2.5-3.5 cm long, 1-1.2 cm wide, the base cuneate, sessile. **Inflorescence** a succession of single flowers, borne by a stout peduncle, 1-2 mm long, enclosed by a sheath at the base of the leaf; floral bract long-pubescent, 1.5 mm long; pedicel pubescent, 2 mm long; ovary densely long-pubescent, 2 mm long; **sepals** purple, fleshy, covered externally by a dense, white pubescence, the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, acute, acuminate, 9 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, apparently connate only basally to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals connate to the apex into a deeply concave, scrotiform synsepal with involute margins, 10 mm long, 5 mm wide unexpanded; **petals** elliptical-obovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 6.5 mm long, 2 mm wide; **lip** purple, pandurate, 4 mm long, the apical lobe transverse with dentate margins, transversely obtuse, 2 mm wide, the lateral lobes erect, oblique, obtuse, 3 mm wide expanded, the disc with an erect pair of rounded lamellae within the lateral lobes, and a linear callus that extends to the claw where it is met by another callus from either lateral lobe, the base truncate with minute marginal lobules, hinged to the column-foot; **column** slender, semiterete, 3 mm long, bidentate at the apex, the base thick, 1 mm long.

ECUADOR: **Zamora-Chinchi**: between Loja and Zamora, collected by P. Cloes, flowered in cultivation by Cloes in Hasselt, Belgium, May 1998, *C. Luer 18793* (Holotype: MO); epiphytic in cloud forest between Loja and Zamora, alt. ca. 1700 m, flowered in cultivation at MO, 1 Apr. 1971, *C. H. Dodson 390* (MO, SEL).

In habit, this little species is similar to *Dresslerella hirsutissima*: an oblong leaf and an equally long ramicaul, and a successive flower borne from the base of the leaf by a short peduncle. The flower is similar to the larger *D. caesariata* that is subtended by a much smaller floral bract. The dorsal sepal is apparently free from the saclike synsepal. A trifid callus is present between the bases of the lateral lobes.