

12. DRESSLERIA WILLIAMSIANA H.G. Hills, **sp. nov.** **TYPE ECUADOR.** Prov. Esmeraldas; Agave plantation off road from Lita to Cachaco Aug. 1987, Whitten *et. al.* ex hort. F87038, 6 Feb 1989, W.M. Whitten *s.n.* (holotype: MO). Figs. 16, 17 & 18.

Dressleria williamsiana is most similar to *D. bennettii* but differs by the location and the shape of the callus. In *D. williamsiana* the callus is tongue like extending from the tooth of the transverse narrow opening of the lip to the apex of the lip unlike the triangular callus of *D. bennettii*. Callus on the sides of the opening not prominent as with *D. bennettii*. The presence of the tongue-like callus and narrow transverse opening distinguishes *D. williamsiana* from *D. fragrans*.

Epiphyte with basal thickly vermiform roots. **Pseudobulbs** fusiform-cylindric, 6–12 cm tall, 2–4 cm wide, fleshy, concealed by persistent leaf bases. **Leaves** oblong-lanceolate, up to 35 cm long, 6 cm wide, acute, persistent, alternate, distichous, prominently veined abaxially. **Inflorescence** a basal arching loosely flowered raceme to 35 cm long. **Pedicels** to 4 cm long, **Flowers** nonresupinate, greenish white turning yellow with age, fleshy, strongly fragrant. **Sepals** lanceolate, acute, dorsal sepal to 26 mm long, 6.5 mm wide, reflexed along the ovary; lateral sepals lanceolate, obtuse, strongly divergent, to 25 mm long, 6.5 mm wide. **Petals** ovate, acute, to 23 mm long, 12 mm wide. **Lip** uppermost, elliptic-ovate, acute, saccate, adnate to the basal third of the column, to 20 mm long, 14 mm wide; sac transverse, obscurely 2-lobed, opening of the sac transverse, narrow hidden by the column. Tongue like callus extending from tooth in the opening of the sac to the apex of the lip. **Column** to 6 mm long, to 9 mm wide at base. **Pollinia** 2, borne on a common stipe and viscidium. **Fruit** not seen.

Distribution: Known only from northwestern Ecuador but likely occurs in southwestern Colombia.

Additional specimens examined. **ECUADOR:** Prov. Esmeraldas; Agave plantation off road from Lita to Cachaco Aug. 1987, Whitten *et al.*, same field collection as the holotype, flowered at Harvard, 1 Oct 1989, G. Romero 2031 (AMES photo & spirit); Cristal, 10 km southwest of road from

Lita to Alto Tambo beginning at km 4. 1400-1500 m. ex hort. Rio Palenque Science Center, 10 July 1989, C.H. Dodson & A. Gentry 17655 (MO).



Figure 16. *Dressleria williamsiana* H.G. Hills (Whitten *et al.*). Plant from the same field collection as the holotype, flowered at Harvard. Photo by Gustavo A. Romero.



Figure 17. *Dressleria williamsiana* H.G. Hills. Close view showing narrow opening of the sac. Photo by Gustavo A. Romero.

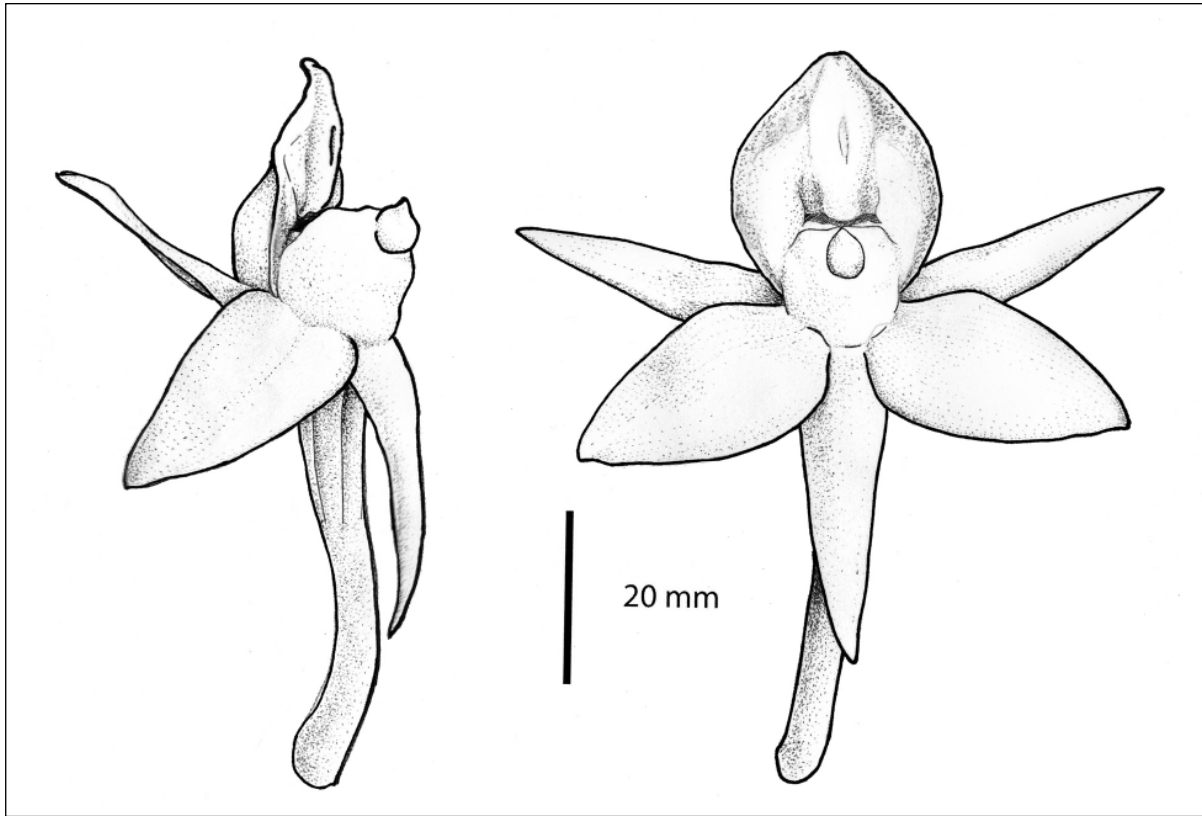


Figure 18. *Dressleria williamsiana* H.G. Hills. Drawing by Alfonso Doucette.

Etymology: The species name honors Norris H. Williams, who has spent much of his professional career in the study of Orchidaceae. His work spans a multitude of disciplines, from floral fragrance analysis to molecular systematics to field biology. He was an important part of the field team that discovered this species.

Fragrance: methyl salicylate.

Dressleria williamsiana should not be confused with "*D. williamsii*," an unpublished name assigned to specimens of *D. kerryae*.