

***Dryadella clavellata* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *clavellatus*, "clubbed," referring to the sepaline tails.

Inter species generis *Dryadellae* planta perparva, foliis crassissimis, floribus perparvis, sepalorum lateralium longicaudatis clavellatis, petalis subhastatis, columnae alis incisiss.

Plant very small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 1.5-2 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, ellipsoid, subacute to obtuse, 8-13 mm long, 4 mm wide, 2 mm thick, cuneate below into the sessile base. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively few-flowered raceme up to 8 mm long, borne by a peduncle 1-2 mm long, enclosed by a loose sheath, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts thin, imbricating, 3-4 mm long; pedicel 4-5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long, tripartite; **sepals** light yellow, spotted with purple, more or less in transverse bars on the dorsal, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, concave, the blade 8.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, contracted into a slender, terete tail, slightly thickened toward the tip, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm to form a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 9 mm long, 2.75 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 1.5 mm, contracted into thick, clavate tails nearly 1 mm broad, with a transverse callus above the decurved base; **petals** heavily spotted with purple, unequally subquadrate, 1.25 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 2-veined, slightly thickened on either side of the center, the apex broadly obtuse, both margins broadly rounded angle above the middle; **lip** purple, unguiculate, the blade elliptical-obovate, acutely deflexed near the middle, 1.5 mm long expanded, 1.25 mm wide, the apex rounded, the base above the claw with a pair of obtuse, retrorse angles, the disc with a pair of obtuse lamellae below the middle, the claw broad, 1 mm long, bilobulate at the base, concave, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; **column** green, 2 mm long, winged from below the middle, incised at the apex into acute, antrorse teeth, the foot 2 mm long.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: collected near El Pangui, alt. 1000 m, cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaico, 2 Feb. 2002, A. Hirtz 8129 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20195.

Superficially, this small species with thickly coriaceous leaves and purple-spotted flowers, resembles the long-tailed, Brazilian *Dryadella lilluputiana*. *Dryadella clavellata*, however, is quickly distinguished by the thick, clavate tails of the lateral sepals. They are reminiscent of the tails of *Trichosalpinx caudata* Luer & R.Escobar and *Actias luna* (the luna moth). The only other noteworthy feature is the deeply incised tip of the column into acute teeth.

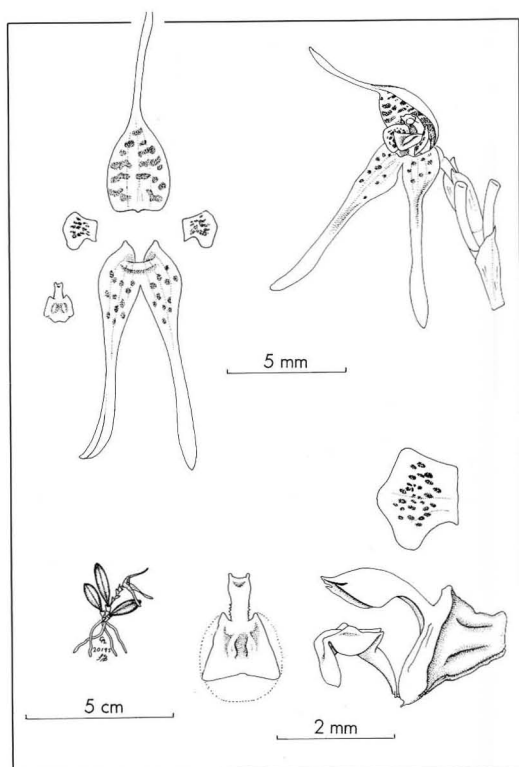


Fig. 8. *Dryadella clavellata*