

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

Ety.: From the Greek *pachyrhiza*, "a thick root," referring to the fleshy roots.

Species haec *D. simulae* (Rchb.f.) Luer similis, sed habitu minore, rhizomatibus crassissimis, foliis brevibus angustissime semiteretibus, petalis sagittatis et labelli lamina brevibicallosa differt.

Plant small in size for the genus, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots fleshy, very thick; Ramicauls erect, 8-10 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, more or less suffused with purple, narrowly linear, semiterete, acute, 20-25 mm long, 2 mm thick, gradually narrowed below to the subpetiolate base. Inflorescence a solitary flower borne singly by a peduncle 4-5 mm long, enclosed by a sheath, from low on the ramicaul; floral bract thin, 6-7 mm long; pedicel 7-8 mm long; ovary 1 mm long, triolate; sepals cream-colored, diffusely dotted with brown, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, 6 mm long, 5 mm wide expanded, the apex obtuse, contracted into a thick tail 5 mm long, connate to the lateral sepals for 2 mm to form a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, with the margins cellular-erose, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the apex acute, contracted into a tail 4 mm long, barely connate at the base, with a transverse callus above the decurved base; petals translucent brown, subquadrate, sagittate, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex obtuse, obtusely or subacutely angled on both margins below the apex; lip light brown, long-unguiculate, the blade subovate, the rounded apex reflexed, 2.5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the base above the claw with a pair of acute lobules directed posteriorly, the disc with a low pair of rounded calli below the middle, the claw 1.5 mm long, bilobulate at the base, channeled longitudinally, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; column green, 2 mm long, longitudinally winged above the middle, the foot equally long.

ECUADOR: Bolívar: epiphytic in humid forest west of Guaranda, old road to Puertoviejo alt. 3100 m, 26 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höjjer, J. Kuijt & A. Hirtz 9742 (Holotype: MO); same area, alt. 2700 m, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höjjer, J. Kuijt & A. Hirtz 9741 (MO).

This little species occurs at high altitudes of the western Andes of central Ecuador. It is distinguished from the frequent Andean *D. simula* by the smaller habit with thick, fleshy roots; short, narrowly linear, semiterete leaves; and smaller flowers. All three sepals are caudate, with the slender tails as long as the blades. The petals are more or less sagittate and obtuse at the apex with angles on both margins below the apex. The characteristic lobule below the apex of the petal of *D. simula* is not present. A pair of short, lunate calli are present below the middle of the blade of the lip.