

Kefersteinia aurorae D. E. Benn. & Christenson, sp. nov. (Fig. 3)

TYPE: PERU. Junín: Chanchamayo, Kivinaki, N slope above Río Perene, 1 Sep 1993, *O. del Castillo ex Bennett 5516* (HOLOTYPE: NY).

Species haec *K. pastorellii* Dodson & D. E. Bennett similis sed sepalis lateralibus brevibus, foliis oblanceolatis, et perianthio plano differt.

Caespitose fan-shaped epiphytes to 14–18 cm tall. *Leaves* 3–6, narrowly lanceolate or oblanceolate, acuminate, apiculate, long-tapered to carinate, petiolate base, 14–18.5 × 1.2–1.6 cm, articulated, conduplicate, imbricating sheaths, moderately dark green, the sheaths concolor green or spotted pale red. *Inflorescences* successive axillary scapes, erect to laxly pendent, the peduncle terete, slender, 5–7.7 cm long, with 1–3 narrow, conduplicate, acuminate, approximate bracts on the basal half, pale green blotched red, the floral bracts 2, subopposite, blotched pale red. *Flower color* variable, the sepals and petals dark yellow or green, heavily marked with intense orangish or dark purplish red, the labellum pale tan-yellow heavily overlaid with very dark red blotches and spots, center with a few patches of appressed intertwined white trichomes interspersed with more or less erect, aciform dark red trichomes, the callus ground color pale yellow or red, with spiculate dark red spots, between spots the indumentum short-pilose, hyaline, underneath densely covered with a mixture of short and long, hyaline, thin, pointed trichomes, the column dark yellow with sparse hyaline pubescence dorsally, thickly pilose underneath, spotted and

blotched intense brown-red, the anther straw-yellow with rose-red spots, the ovary green with reddish brown spots. *Sepals* and *petals* subsimilar and subequal, the dorsal sepal elliptic, apiculate, 12 × 6.2 mm, the lateral sepals obliquely oblong-elliptic, acute, concave at the base, thickened along the midveins, 15.5 × 6.6 mm, the petals obliquely elliptic, shortly acuminate, margins lightly revolute, 12 × 6.3 mm. *Labelum* obovate, 13 × 15 mm, the apex with a deeply undulate fold, the margin lacerate-fimbriate, the callus quadrangular, deeply bilobed-emarginate, auricular, with a central oblong, sulcate, broadly thickened rib. *Column* fleshy, winged, 8.6 mm long, 5 mm broad across the transverse, broadly semielliptic wings, the abaxial keel short, 3–3.5 mm long, the column foot with a prominent claw, the anther 1.9 × 1.5 mm, the pollinia 2 in very unequal pairs, larger pair 1.3 × 0.5 mm, smaller pair 1.0 × 0.3 mm, the stipe short, continuous with the rhombic, thick viscidium. *Ovary* sulcate, obtusely angled, the pedicel terete. *Fragrance* diurnal, musty.

Etymology: Named to honor Aurora Pastorelli de Bennett in recognition for her skillful and constant care of the living specimens from which the orchid species described in this series are illustrated.

PARATYPES: PERU. Junín: Tarma, Contaypaccha, 22 Apr 1992, *O. del Castillo ex Bennett 5550* (USM); Chanchamayo, Kivinaki, N slope above Río Perene, 26 Mar 1992, *O. del Castillo ex Bennett 5517* (NY, USM).

Habitat: Found at lower levels of wet cloud forest (1700–1890 m), *K. aurorae* flowers

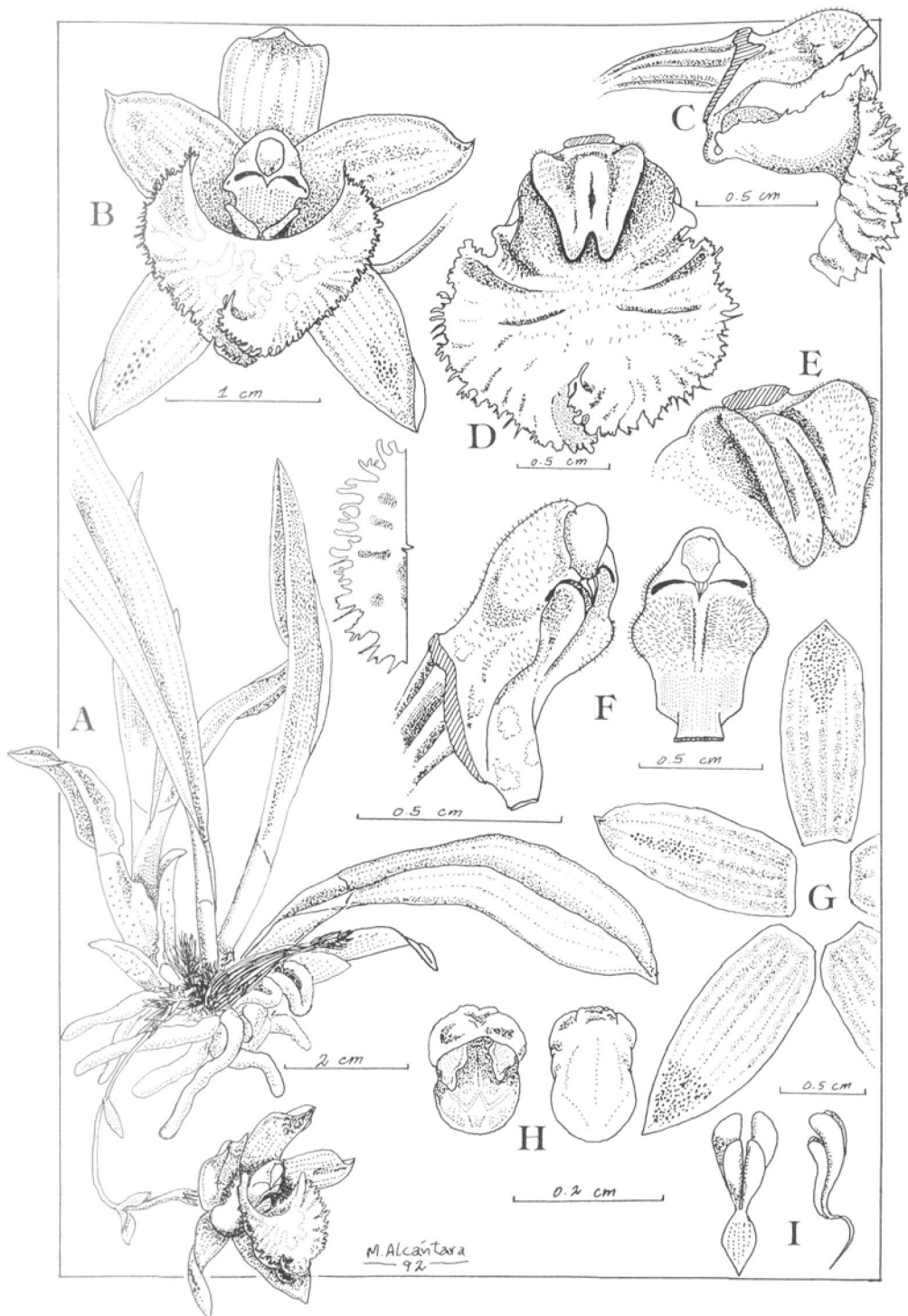


FIG. 3. *Kefersteinia aurorae* D. E. Benn. & Christenson (drawn from Bennett 5516). A. Plant in flower. B. Flower. C. Column and labellum in profile. D. Labellum with close-up of margin. E. Callus. F. Column. G. Floral dissection. H. Anther. I. Pollinarium.

from September through May when in active growth.

This species is distinguished by the pubescence on the lip and column, the lacerate-fimbriate lip margin, the ear-shaped calli lobes separated by a broad rib furrowed in the center and the broadly transverse, semielliptic column wings.