

*Dichaea riopalenquensis* Dodson, sp. nov.

(Plate 13:D).

*Dichaeae panamensis* Lindl. similis, sed ovario muricato, sepalis petalisque angustioribus et lobis lateralibus labelli gracillimis differt.

Plant epiphytic. Stems simple or sparsely branched, commonly several, caespitose, erect or arcuate-ascending, to 15 cm long, entirely concealed by imbricating leaf sheaths. Leaves numerous, distichous, articulated, linear, acute, apiculate, spreading, 3.0 cm long, 0.6 cm wide. Inflorescences axillary, 1-flowered, much shorter than the leaves; peduncle slender; flowers medium in size, open, white or white flecked with tiny red spots; ovary and capsule muricate; sepals elliptical, acute, concave, the lateral sepals slightly oblique, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide; petals narrowly obovate, acute 8 mm long, 3 mm wide; lip anchoriform, 9 mm long, 7 mm wide across the lobules, apiculate at the apex, from a claw which is narrower at the base than at the apex; column short, stout, 3 mm long at the back, with a broadly triangular, microscopically bristly ridge below the stigma; stigma 3 mm wide.

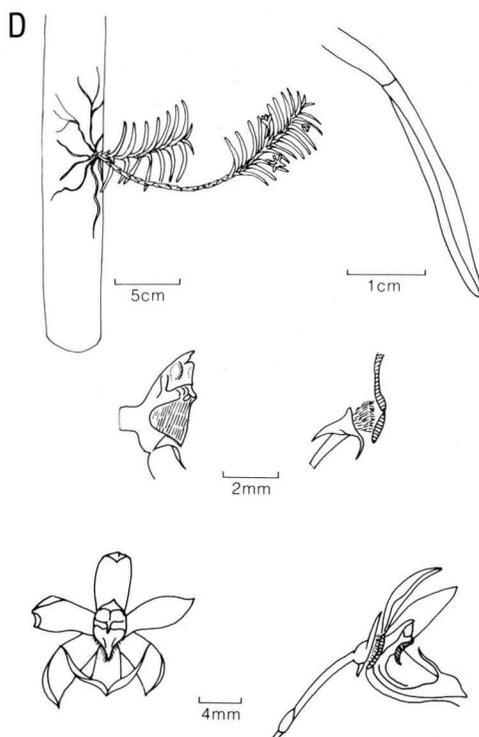
ETYMOLOGY: Named for the Río Palenque Science Center where it is a common plant.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: LOS RÍOS: Río Palenque Science Center, km 56 Quevedo-Santo Domingo, alt. 150-220 m, 23 Apr. 1973, C. H. Dodson 5257, (HOLOTYPE: SEL, ISOTYPE: RPSC).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: LOS RÍOS: same locality, 27 Feb. 1975, C. H. Dodson 5784b (SEL); PICHINCHA: along Río Baba, 28 km S of Santo Domingo, alt. 350 m, 3 Oct. 1961, C. H. Dodson & L. B. Thien 1151a (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Western Ecuador.

*Dichaea riopalenquensis* is similar of *D. panamensis* Lindl., but the flower parts of the former are much narrower and the ovary is muricate. *Dichaea richii* is similar but much smaller in all its parts. The base of the claw of *D. riopalenquensis* is narrower than the apex.



*Dichaea riopalenquensis*

CHD