

SUBTRIBE DICHAEINAE

Dichaea venezuelensis Carnevali & I. Ramírez,
sp. nov. TYPE: Venezuela. Bolívar: Distrito
Piar, Amarway-tepui, S side, forest 5–25 m
tall, 700–910 m, 28 Apr. 1986, *Liesner &*
Holst 20477 (holotype, VEN; isotype, MO).
Figure 2.

(Species) *D. riopalenquensi* Dodson verosimiliter affinis
sed floribus minoribus, sepalis 5–6 mm longis (vs. 8 mm),
petalis 4.5 mm longis, 2 mm latis (vs. 8 × 3 mm) et
labello proportione latiore, 4.5 mm longo, 5.5 mm lato
(vs. 9 × 7 mm) differt. *Dichaeam cleistogamam* Dodson
in mentem revocans sed foliis sepalisque angustioribus
recedit.

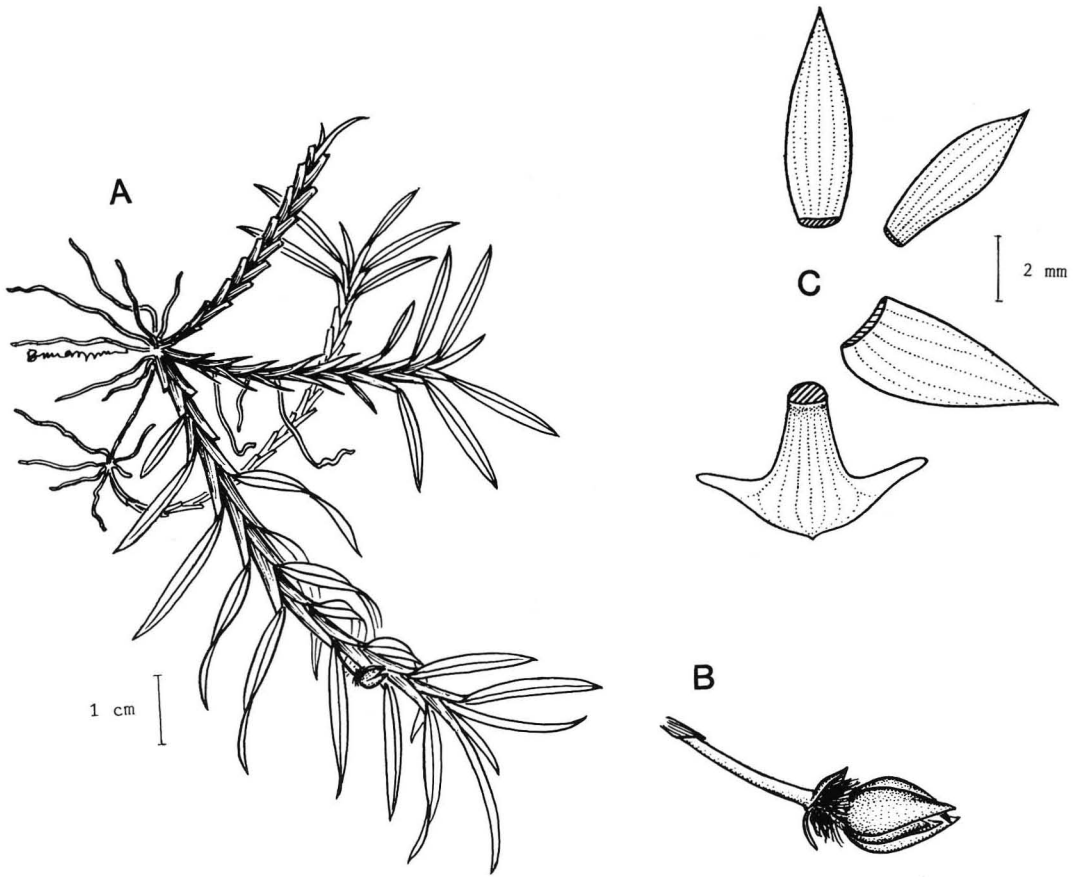


Figure 2. *Dichaea venezuelensis*. —A. Flowering habit. —B. Lateral view of flower with developing capsule. —C. Perianth segments, flattened (based on Carnevali & Ramírez 2030).

Epiphytic herbs, small to medium sized, suberect to pendulous. Stems 7–15 cm long, 3–4 mm thick, usually simple, if branching, then only near base, laterally compressed. Leaves 25–31 mm long, 3–4 mm wide, articulate with sheaths, linear-oblong or linear-elliptic, acute, aristate-acuminate, margins apically minutely ciliate. Inflorescences uniflorous, solitary in leaf axils; peduncle filiform, terete, 7–10 mm long, with two basal sheaths 3 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; the sheaths imbricate, oblong-elliptic, acute dorsally carinate. Floral bract 2.8–3.1 mm long, ca. 2 mm wide, broadly ovate, acuminate, dorsally carinate. Bracteole 2.8–3 mm long, 0.3 mm wide, linear, acuminate. Ovary 0.8–1 mm long, densely muricate with white hairs (when living). Flowers small, not opening widely and frequently cleistogamous, with greenish white, basally red-speckled sepals and petals; labellum white; column green with red margins. Sepals and petals fleshy, 5-nerved. Dorsal sepal 4.5–5.2 mm long, 2.2–2.4 mm wide, ovate-elliptic, acute. Lateral sepals 5.3–6.2 mm long,

2.4–2.8 mm wide, obliquely ovate-elliptic, acuminate. Petals 4.1–4.5 mm long, 1.9–2.1 mm wide, oblong-elliptic to oblong, acute and apiculate or shortly acuminate. Labellum 4–4.2 mm long, fleshier than other perianth segments, very broadly obovate, anchorlike from a broadly cuneate-unguiculate claw, the claw 2.5–2.7 mm long, the blade 5–5.5 mm wide between the apices of the extended lateral lobes, dilated into an abruptly crescentiform anterior portion, apically very broadly rounded or subtruncate, shortly and obtusely apiculate in the center, the apical lateral lobes retrorse, 1.5–2 mm long. Column 1.5 mm long on dorsal face, 2.8–3 mm long on ventral face, ca. 1.5 mm thick, with a pubescent, triangular infrastigmatic ligule 0.5 mm wide.

Paratypes. VENEZUELA. **Bolívar**: 78 km S de Urimán-tepui, bosques en alrededores de pequeña cima de arenisca, 04°39'N, 62°36'W, 450 m, Sep. 1986, Fernández 3424 (MYF, VEN); Gran Sabana, Amarway-tepui, 600–900 m, floración en cultivo de una planta

originalmente colectada por R. Liesner & B. Holst, 30 Sep. 1986, *Carnevali & Ramírez 2030* (VEN); cercanías de Wonkén, Río Akaruai, vegetación riparina, 800–900 m, 11 Sep. 1983, *Morillo et al. 9445* (VEN). **Miranda:** Parque Nacional Guatopo, bosque nublado, 600–800 m, 10°03'N, 66°27'W, 27 May 1987, *Capote 140* (VEN). **Táchira:** ca. 35 km SSE de San Cristóbal, La Buenana, 6–12 km from Quebrada Colorado, primary forests, 600–1,000 m, 07°28'N, 72°09'W, 20–21 Mar. 1981, *Liesner & González 10848* (MO, VEN). **Territorio Federal Amazonas:** Río Ararí, afluente del Matapire, 3–6 km aguas arriba de la desembocadura del primero, 530–550 m, 01°30'N, 65°13'W, 14 Nov. 1982, *Guánchez 2250* (TFAV, VEN).

This new *Dichaea* is one of about 15 species in the genus with articulated leaves and echinate ovaries. It appears to be related to the Ecuadorean *D. riopalenquensis*, which has larger flowers and a differently proportioned labellum. Another related species is *D. cleistogama* Dodson, also from Ecuador, with which it shares the tendency toward cleistogamous flowers, but *D. venezuelensis* is different in its narrower leaves and perianth segments. Specimens of *D. venezuelensis* have previously been confused with *D. brachypoda* Reichenbach. f., a similar but larger species. In *D. brachypoda* the perianth segments are brownish violet within and are 7.5–8.5 mm long. *Dichaea venezuelensis* grows as an epiphyte at altitudes of 450–1,000 m, in wet forests. It is a widespread, though uncommon species in Venezuela.