

*Dresslerella elvallensis* C. Luer, sp. nov.

Habitu *D. pertusae* (Dressler) C. Luer similis sed differt sepalo dorsali proportione longiore apice synsepali minus vesicario et petalis linearibus.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose, rosetted; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems terete, 2-3 cm long, concealed by 3-4 loose, imbricating, hispidulous sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf more or less pendent, thick, coriaceous, dark green suffused with purple, especially beneath, oblong to narrowly elliptical, subacute, the base sessile, rounded, the margins minutely ciliate, 3-7 X 1-2.5 cm. Inflorescence a solitary (rarely 2) flower from the axil of the leaf; floral bract tubular, densely pubescent, brown, 4-5 mm long; pedicel red, sparsely pubescent, 4-5 mm long; ovary purple-brown, densely pubescent, 2.5 mm long; flower fleshy, pubescent, dull yellow, spotted with purple, the spots coalescing toward the apices of the sepals, the sepals united to near the middle; dorsal sepal triangular, narrowly obtuse, 9 X 3 mm; lateral sepals connate into a cymbiform synsepal, 7 X 5 mm incompletely spread; petals narrowly linear, translucent yellowish, 1-veined, 6 X 0.4 mm; lip sagitate, dotted with purple-brown on dull orange, the lateral angles obtuse and erect, the base prominently unguiculate, with a pair of small basal auricles, the claw with an uncinat callus, the blade with a pair of low, thickened calli, 5 X 3 mm; column terete, 5 mm long, with a short foot.

ETYMOLOGY: Named for the town of El Valle de Anton in the Province of Coclé near which the species occurs.

TYPE: PANAMA: COCLÉ: epiphytic in the cloud forest in the hills above El Valle, alt. 1000 m, 6 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. L. Dressler 1079 (HOLOTYPE: SEL); same area, 3 Sept. 1976, C. Luer & H. Butcher 1154 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This species is most similar to *Dresslerella pertusa* (Dressler) C. Luer, and without flowers the two cannot be easily distinguished. Vegetatively the average *D. elvallensis* is slightly less robust with narrower leaves, and the flower, less intensely marked with purple, is smaller. At anthesis the proportionately longer dorsal sepal protrudes beyond the united lateral sepals. The concave synsepal is considerably less inflated apically, so that the opening of the flower is larger and longer than that of *D. pertusa*. The petals are

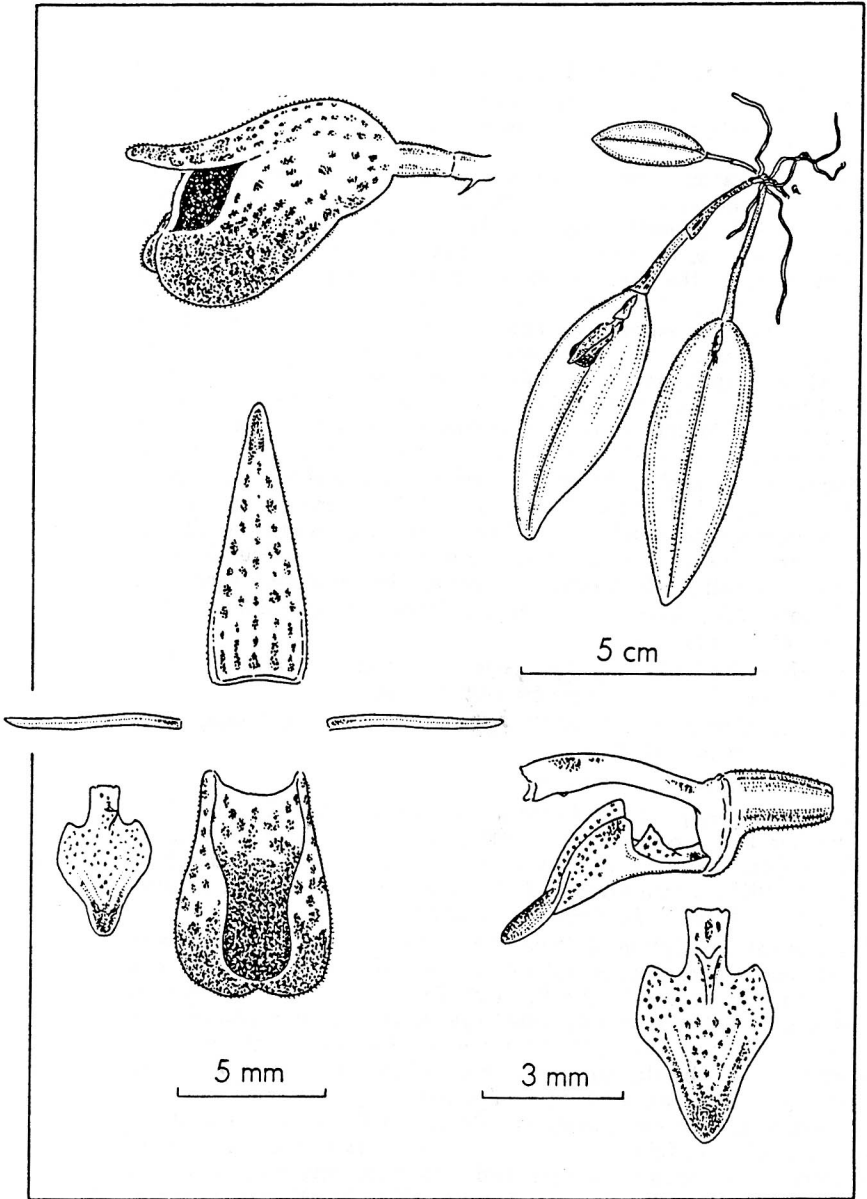


Figure 104. *DRESSLERELLA ELVALLENSIS* C. A. Luer

narrowly linear without the obtuse angles above the middle. Except for being covered with minute spots of brown, the orange lip is similar to that of *D. pertusa*.