

**Dryadella crassicaudata** Luer, sp. nov:

Ety.: From the Latin *crassicaudatus*, "thickly caudate," referring to the thick sepaline tails.

Species haec *D. lilliputianae* (Cogn.) Luer affinis, sed sepalorum caudis brevioribus crassioribusque differt.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 2-3 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, semiterete, obtuse, 18-21 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, 2 mm thick, narrowed below at the base. **Inflorescence** a congested, successively few-flowered raceme borne by a peduncle 1-1.5 mm long, enclosed by a bract; floral bract thin, 3-4 mm long; pedicel 4 mm long; ovary 1 mm long, triquetrous; **sepals** translucent greenish white, sparsely spotted with red, subcarinate, with the margins cellular, the dorsal sepal elliptical-oblong, concave, 6 mm long including the tail, 2 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm to form a sepaline cup, the apex acute, contracted into a thickened, subclavate tail 2.5 mm long, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 4.75 mm long including the tail, 1.5 mm wide, with a transverse callus above the decurved base, slightly connate at the base, the apex acute, contracted into a thickened tail 2 mm long; **petals** translucent green, suffused with red on the margins, subsagittate, 1.25 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the apex broadly obtuse with a low, obtuse angle above, and a broad, obtuse lobule on the labellar margin; **lip** red, long-unguiculate, the blade subquadrate, 1 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded, decurved, the base above the claw with a pair of acute, retrorse lobes, the disc with a short pair of obtuse calli below the middle, the claw 0.5 mm long, shallowly channelled, bilobulate at the base, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; **column** red, 1.25 mm long, longitudinally winged above the middle, the foot thick, 1 mm long.

PERU: **Amazonas:** Moyabamba, collected by Morgan, Aug. 1986, flowered in cultivation at Great Lakes Orchids, Michigan, 15 Dec. 1986, *C. Luer 11650* (Holotype: MO). Without locality, *D. Bennett 6175* (MO), *C. Luer illustr. 16957*.

COLOMBIA: Without locality, collected by Hubein, cultivated by B. Würstle in Spielberg, Germany, 21 Sept. 1981, *C. Luer 6519* (SEL).

This little species is similar to Brazilian *Dryadella lilliputiana* both florally and vegetatively with very small, semiterete leaves. Instead of long and slender, the tails of the sepals are shorter, thick, and rigid. Although the collections cited above "look alike," they could be variations of other unrecognized species, or they could be disjunct, boreal variations of *D. lilliputiana*.

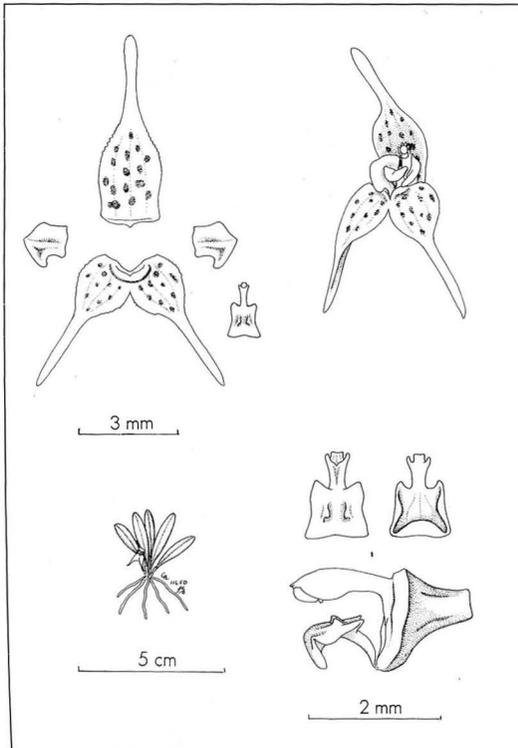


Fig. 9. *Dryadella crassicaudata*