

Dryadella sublata Luer & J.J.Portilla, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *sublatus*, "raised," referring to the elevated flowers.

Species haec *D. simulae* (Rchb.f.) Luer affinis, sed habitu minore foliis crassissimis, pedicello unifloro proportione longissimo, sepalis carnosus ad apicem crassissimis differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots proportionately thick. Ramicauls erect, 4-8 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, ribbed, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, ellipsoid, subacute to obtuse, 12-17 mm long, 4 mm wide, 2 mm thick, cuneate below into the sessile base. **Inflorescence** a single flower borne by a pedicel 8-11 mm long, from near the middle of the ramicaul; floral bract thin, loose, tubular, 3-5 mm long; peduncle 2-4 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 loose, ribbed, tubular sheaths; ovary costate, 2 mm long, 2.5 mm wide; **sepals** green, heavily dotted with purple, fleshy, thickened toward the apex, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, narrowly obtuse, concave, 8.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm to form a sepaline cup, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, narrowly obtuse, 8.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate 0.5 mm at the base, with a transverse callus above the decurved base; **petals** translucent purple, suboblong-hastate, 2 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 2-veined, slightly thickened on the labellar half, the apex broadly obtuse, both margins with a subacute angle above the middle; **lip** dark purple, unguiculate, the blade obovate, acutely deflexed near the middle, 2 mm long expanded, 2 mm wide, the apex rounded, the base above the claw with a pair of obtuse, retrorse, subacute, angles, the disc with a pair of obtuse shortly denticulate lamellae below the middle, the claw channeled, 1 mm long, minutely bilobulate at the base, hinged to the apex of the column-foot; **column** green, 2 mm long, with an equally long foot, denticulate on narrow wings from below the middle.

PERU: Amazonas: Mendoza, cultivated at Ecuagenera, Gualaceo, Ecuador, 5 May 2001, C. Luer 19743 (Holotype: MO).

This small, densely caespitose species is distinguished by a proportionately long pedicel that bears a single, spotted flower about as high as the tips of thickly coriaceous leaves. The sepals are fleshy, more or less triangular and slightly contracted above the middle into thick, tail-like apices. The angled petals and unguiculate lip are not distinctly different from many of its relatives.

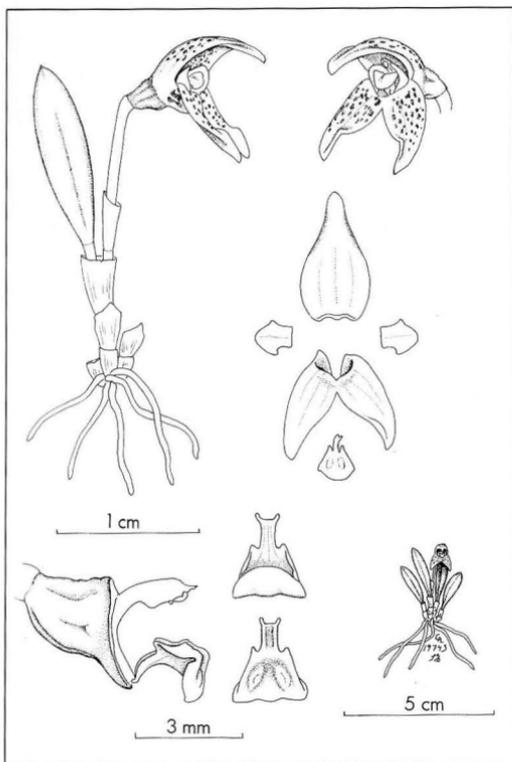


Fig. 40. *Dryadella sublata*