

Dichaea hystericina

RCHB. F.

FLORA 48: 279. 1865

Type: Cuba [Orientali:] prope villam Monte Verdi dicta, Aug. 13, 1859, C. Wright 1478 (holotype: W-17196; isotype: AMES-61211).

Illustrated specimen: Colombia. Valle del Cauca: Municipality of Río Bravo, 1600 m. 6 September 2018. J.S. Moreno 521 (CAUP; LCDP voucher).

References:

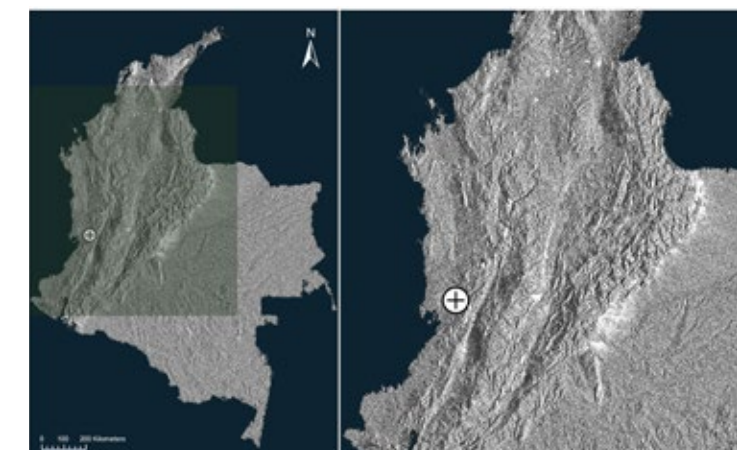
Pupulin, F. 2007. Contributions toward a reassessment of Costa Rican Zygopetalinae (Orchidaceae). 3. A systematic revision of *Dichaea* in Costa Rica. *Harvard Papers in Botany* 12(1): 15-154.

Pupulin, F. 2005. *Dichaea hystericina* and *Dichaea ciliolata*: Two species in one and an interesting variation. *Orchids*: 678-683.

Plant epiphytic, caespitose, up to 15 cm long. *Roots* pale brown produced along the stem, glabrous, flexuous, about 0.2 mm thin. *Stems* flattened, suberect to pendent, 5 cm long, freely branching, conduplicate sheaths. *Leaves* not articulate, closely spaced along stem, spreading, subcoriaceous, narrowly ovate, mucronate apex, 3–5 × 2 mm, entire margins densely and equally ciliate. *Inflorescence* solitary, 1-flowered, emerging below foliage, the peduncle straight, provided at the base with a triangular, acute bract. *Ovary* pedicellate and cylindric, densely muricate, about 1.25 mm long. *Flower* pale yellow, *sepals* yellowish cream widely spotted with purple, the lip white variegated with purple spots. *Dorsal sepal* lanceolate, apiculate, 6–7 × 2 mm, abaxially provided with sparse warts. *Lateral sepals* lanceolate elliptic, apiculate, concave, 7–8 × 2.5 mm, abaxially warty. *Petals* oblanceolate, acuminate 7 × 2 mm. *Lip* 3-lobed, from a fleshy claw, 6–7 × 5 mm, the hypochile rectangular, provided at the base with two lateral knobs, the epichile sagittate, acute, the lateral lobes filiform, acute, retrorse, 2.5 mm long. *Column* 5 mm long, yellowish with purple around edge of stigma and laterally, provided with two purple slightly ciliate wings. The ligule is entire and purple, ciliated mostly at the apex.

Etymology: From the Latin *hystericinus*, “porcupine-like”, in reference to the “spiny” fruits of the species.

The species is easily recognized by its small size, the linear-ligulate leaves provided with trichomes that cover the entire leaf margins, the muricate ovary, and the clawed lip, with small lobules at the base (Pupulin 2005; 2007). In Colombia, *Dichaea hystericina* is a widely distributed species in the understory of moist forests from 800-2100 m of elevation.



LCDP: *Dichaea hystericina* Rchb. A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Dissected perianth. D. Ovary, column and lip. E. Column, ventral and side view.

