

**Barbosella ricii** Luer & Vásquez, sp. nov.

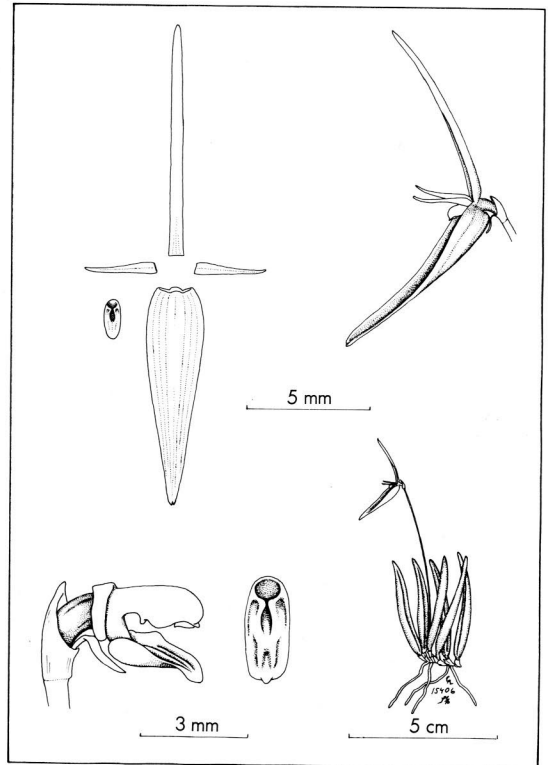
Ety.: Named in honor of Darwin Ric of Montero, Bolivia, who discovered this species.

Species haec *Barbosellae prorepentis* (Rchb.f.) Schltr. affinis, sed habitu densissime ascendenti caespitoso, foliis angustissime fusiformibus-ovoideis, floribus majoribus et labello oblongo obscure bicalloso differt.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, densely caespitose, very shortly ascending-repent; roots slender. Ramicauls ascending to erect, 1-1.5 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, fleshy, thickly coriaceous, narrowly fusiform-ovoid, terete to semiterete, linear, narrowly subacute, sessile, 2-5 cm long, 2-3 mm wide, more or less abruptly narrowed below at the sessile base. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, produced singly; peduncle slender, erect, 5-8 cm long; floral bract thin, tubular, 2-3 mm long, enclosing the pedicel; pedicel stout, 0.5-1 mm long, with a filament 2 mm long; ovary smooth, 2 mm long; **sepals** light yellow-green, the dorsal sepal free, erect, narrowly linear or linear-ovate, acute, 13-18 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide, 3-veined, semiterete above the middle, the lateral sepals connate to the apex into a narrowly ovate lamina, concave at the base, 13-17 mm long, 5 mm wide, 6-veined together; **petals** yellow-green, narrowly linear-ovate, acute, the margins cellular erose or microscopically denticulate, 5 mm long, 1 mm wide, thickened above the middle; **lip** yellow-green, thick, oblong with thin erect margins below the middle, 3 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the apex rounded, the disc with an obscure pair of low calli on the apical third, the disc cleft below the middle into the rounded basal cavity, articulated with the bulbous apex of the column-foot; **column** green, stout, longitudinally winged above the middle, 3 mm long, the apex cucullate, the foot thick with the apex of the ovary, the apex free, bulbous.

BOLIVIA: **Santa Cruz**: epiphytic in moist forest south of Yapacani, alt. 600 m, 7 Sept. 1991, C. Luer, J. Luer, L. Moreno & D. Ric 15406 (Holotype: MO).

This species, known from a seasonally dry forest of the lowland plains of north-central Bolivia, is closely related to the *B. prorepens*-complex. The larger flowers of *B. ricii* resemble those of *B. dolichorhiza*. Vegetatively, *B. ricii* is distinguished by the narrowly fusiform-ovoid leaves that are abruptly narrowed below at the sessile base, and borne by very short ramicauls. The habit appears very similar to that of several species of *Dryadella*. The extremely abbreviated rhizomes create great masses of densely packed leaves that accumulate on the trunks of large trees.

Fig. 20. *Barbosella ricii*