

***Brachionidium andreettae* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named in honor of Padre Angel Andreetta presently of Paute, Ecuador, one of the original collectors of this species.

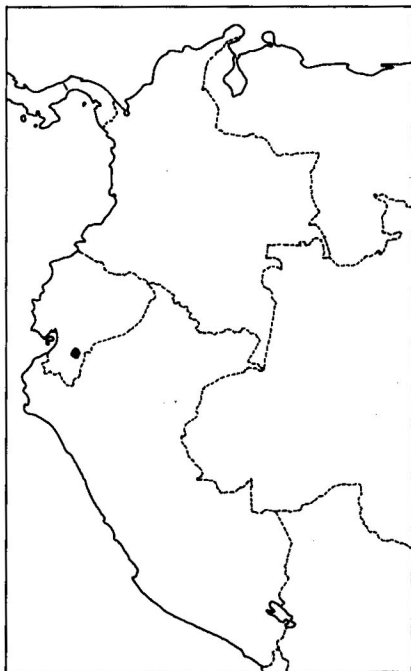
Planta grandis erecta vel ascendens rhizomate crasso, flore mediocri pulcherrimo, sepalis ovatis acuminatis minute ciliatis, sepalo mediano tri-nervis, synsepalo concavo et labello crasso late trapeziformi calloso obtuso.

Plant medium in size to large, epiphytic, erect or suberect, up to 15 cm tall, the rhizome stout, occasionally branching, 1-2 cm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 3 non-scurfy, tubular sheaths, mucronate at the apex; roots coarse, from along the rhizome and near the base. Ramicauls suberect, 6-9 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 2.5-4 cm long including a petiole 2-4 mm long, 7-11 mm wide, 7-veined, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a solitary, showy, non-resupinate flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 2 cm long, with a loose bract near the middle and near the base, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, mucronate, 3-4 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and ovary; pedicel 0.5 mm long, with a filament 4-5 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; **sepals** translucent, shortly ciliate, the middle sepal light green, ovate, acute, acuminate, 15 mm long, 7 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals totally connate into a bright purple, ovate, acute, concave synsepal, 15 mm long, 7 mm wide expanded, 4-veined; **petals** purple, short-ciliate, ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 14 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** dark purple, transversely ovate-lunate, 2.5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, the lateral angles acute, incurved, the apical margin broadly rounded, with a short apiculum, callous below the margins, the disc with a transversely ovoid, pubescent callus 1.5 wide, cleft anteriorly; **column** stout, 1 mm long; **pollinia** 8.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Zamora-Chinchi: epiphytic in scrub cloud forest east of the pass east of Loja, alt. 2250 m, 22 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13607 (Holotype: MO; Isotype: QCNE); same area, alt 2300 m, 21 Jan. 1992, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup & A. Hirtz 16091 (MO); same area, alt. 2300 m, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & H. Wanntorp 1869 (MO).

This relatively large, pretty species is apparently endemic in the mountains of southeastern Ecuador. It is characterized by an ascending, stout habit, smooth, non-scurfy sheaths, and minutely ciliate, acuminate sepals and petals. The lip is not sharply bimarginate.

Brachionidium andreettae is similar to the sympatric, repent *B. ecuadorensis*, but *B. andreettae* is distinguished by the stouter rhizome and larger flowers. It is also related to the Colombian *B. parvifolium* from which it is distinguished by the 3-veined middle sepal and the 4-veined synsepal, both of which are merely acuminate instead of caudate. The lip is not sharply bimarginate as it is in *B. ecuadorensis* and *B. parvifolium*. All three of the above species possess eight pollinia.



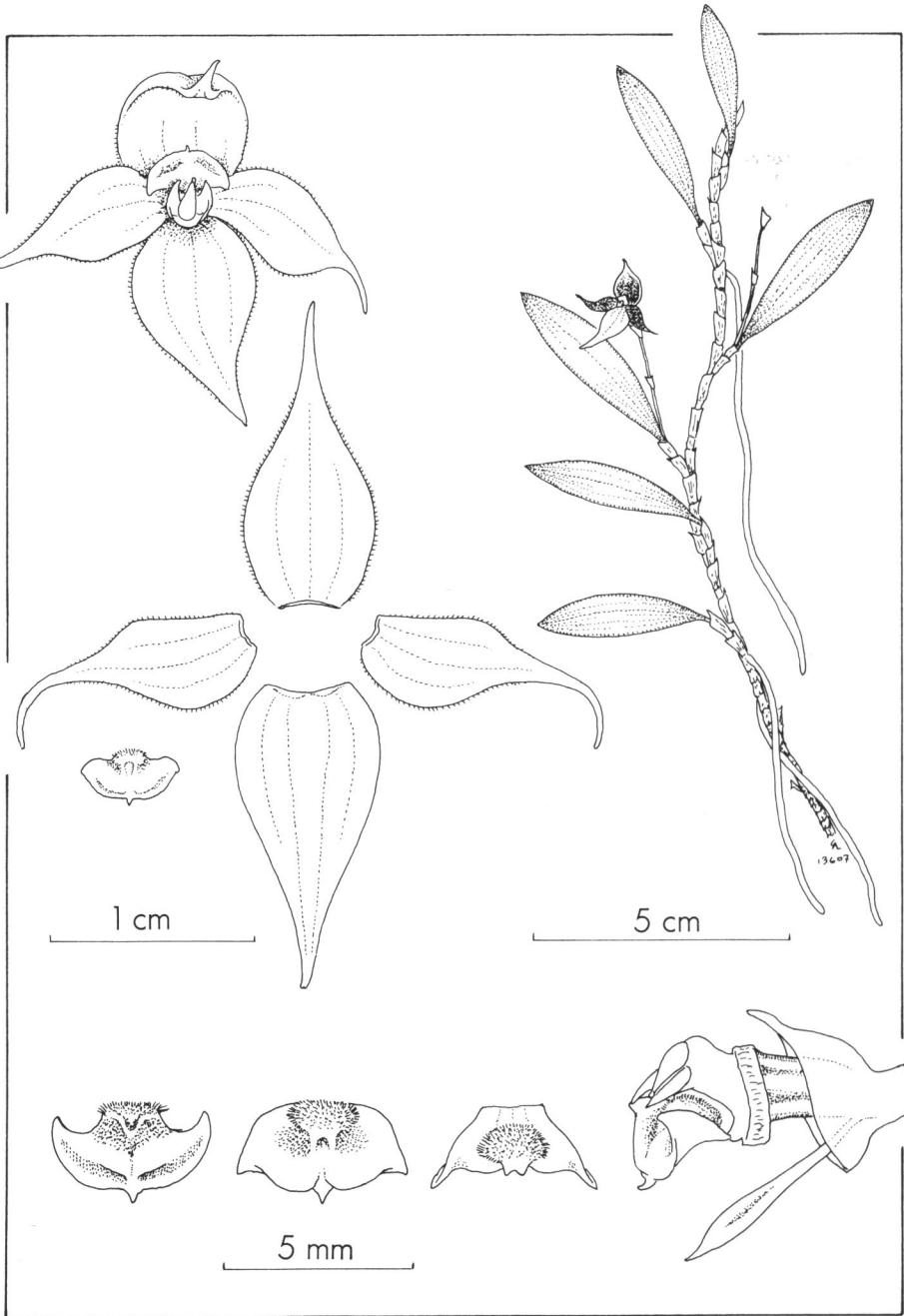


Plate 2. *Brachionidium andreettae* Luer & Hirtz