

***Brachionidium arethusa* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for Arethusa, a beautiful wood nymph of Greek mythology, who was turned into a stream.

*Planta mediocris suberecta rhizomate crasso vaginis furfuraceis, foliis anguste ovatis, 9- ad 13-nervatis, flore grandi, sepalis minute ciliatis longicaudatis, synsepalo concavo quam sepalo mediano multimore 6-nervato, petalis obliquis sepalo mediano similibus, labello transverse triangulari obtuso, lobis lateralibus acutis, marginibus crassis acute reflexis, callo basali late suborbiculari pubescenti.*

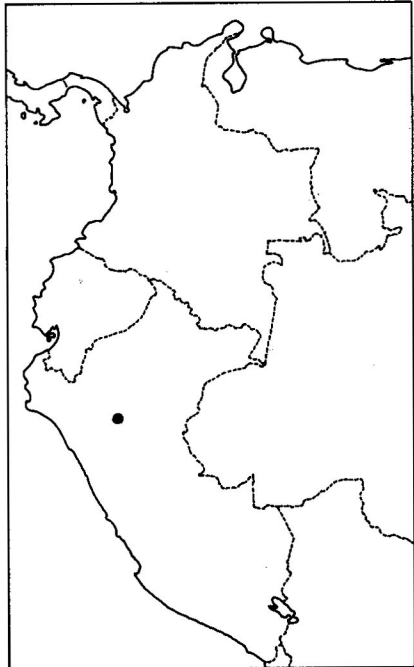
*Plant medium in size, terrestrial, suberect, up to 15 cm tall, the rhizome relatively stout, occasionally branching, 15-18 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 3 tubular, mucronate, scurfy sheaths; roots coarse, from near the base. Ramicauls slender, erect, 7-8 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular, scurfy sheaths. Leaf erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, acute with a prominent apiculum, 25-32 mm long, cuneate below into a petiole 2-3 mm long, 8-10 mm wide, 9- to 13-veined. Inflorescence a solitary, non-resupinate flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 3.5-4.5 cm long, with a bract near the middle, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acute, 5 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and part of the ovary; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament 6 mm long; ovary 3.5 mm long; sepals translucent green, minutely ciliate, the middle sepal elliptical, acute, attenuate, 34 mm long, the blade 15 mm long, 7 mm wide, 3-veined, contracted into a filiform tail, 16 mm long, the lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovate, acute, attenuate, deeply concave synsepal, 35 mm long, the blade 15-20 mm long, 13 mm wide unexpanded, 6-veined, the apex acuminate into a slender tail ca. 20 mm long, the tips free for 5 mm; petals translucent purple, minutely ciliate, ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 35 mm long, the blade 15 mm long, 6 mm wide, 3-veined, the tail 20 mm long, the tip free for 5 mm; lip purple, transversely triangular, obtuse, 2 mm long, 4 mm wide, the lateral angles acute, incurved, the margins thick and acutely decurved onto the back surface, the disc with a rounded, pubescent callus; column stout, 1 mm long; pollinia 8.*

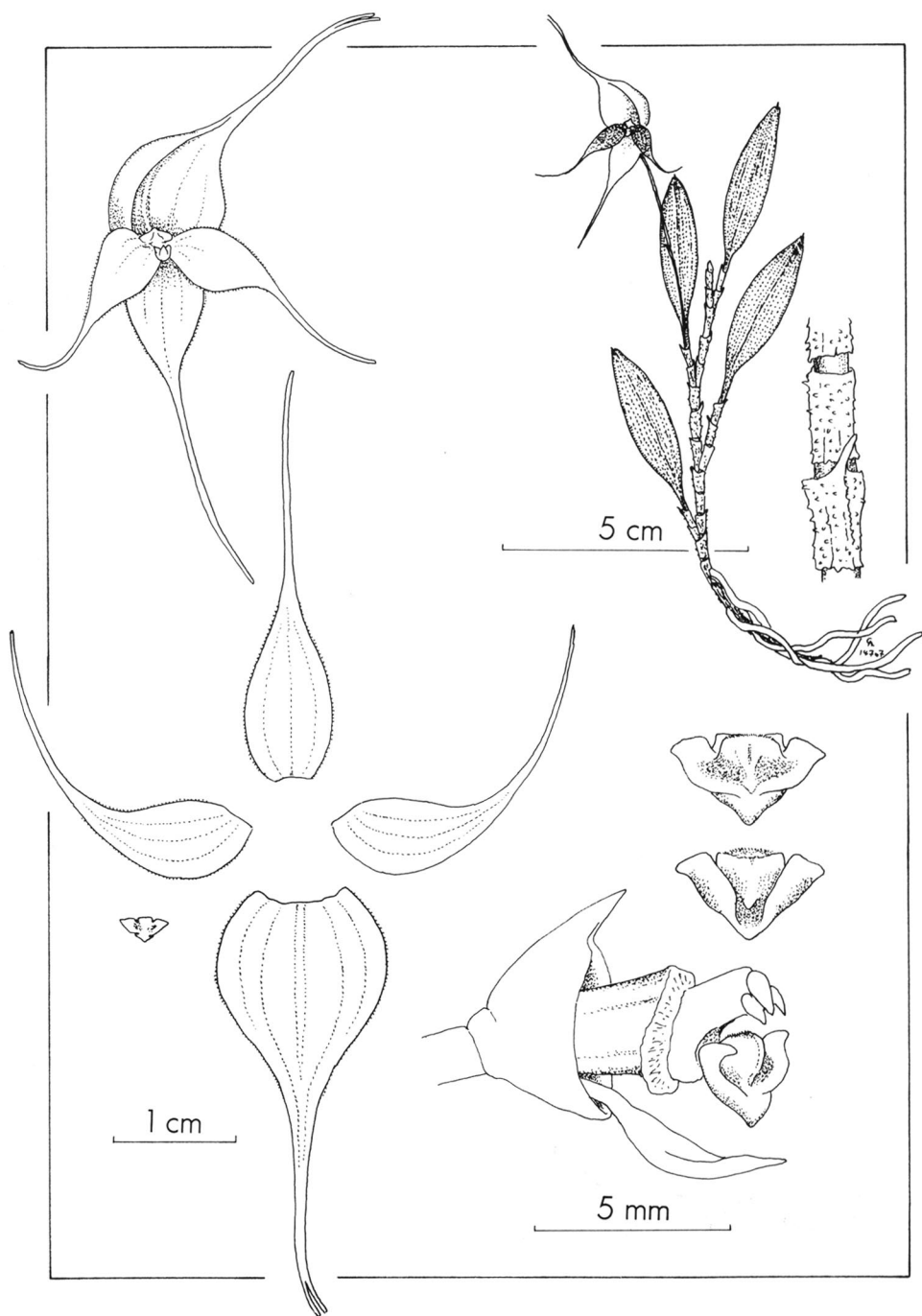
PERU: Dept. of San Martin: Dist. Huallaga, valley of Río Apisoncho, 30 Km above Jucusbamba, terrestrial in bamboo thickets near the river, alt. 2800 m, 3 Aug. 1965, A. C. Hamilton & P. M. Holligan 1095 (Holotype: K), C. Luer illustr. 14707.

This species, apparently endemic in north-central Peru, was collected in a bamboo thicket by the Río Apisoncho during the Cambridge Botanical Expedition in 1965. No subsequent collection is known.

*Brachionidium arethusa* is distinguished by the scurfy cauline sheaths; erect, multiveined, narrowly ovate leaves; large, long-tailed flowers with a concave synsepal much larger than the three-veined middle sepal; and a transverse, obtuse lip with thick margins reflexed onto the back surface, but the reflection may be an artifact from rehydration.

*Brachionidium arethusa* is most similar to the Ecuadorian *B. elegans*, from which it is distinguished by the long, sepaline tails. Both species possess eight pollinia.



Plate 3. *Brachionidium arethusa* Luer