

**Brachionidium carmeniae** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Carmen Soto, Coordinadora de Programas Ecológicos en Inkaterra, Machu Picchu.

Species haec *Brachionidio tuberculato* Lindl. affinis, sed foliis carinatis laceratis ad apicem cum apiculo decurvo differt.

**Plant** small to medium in size, terrestrial, suberect, up to 10 cm or more tall, the rhizome stout, 2-3 mm thick, 5-10 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 3 tubular, mucronate, scurfy sheaths; roots coarse, from near the base. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-4 mm long, enclosed by 1-2 similar, tubular, scurfy sheaths. **Leaf** more or less spreading, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse with a decurved apiculum, the blade 10-13 mm long, contracted below into a petiole ca. 1 mm long, 7-9 mm wide, 5-veined, the veins crested and lacerate. **Inflorescence** a solitary, non-resupinate flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle ca. 15 mm long, with a bract near the middle, from the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acute, 4 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and ovary; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament ca. 3 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** translucent, glabrous, strongly marked with red-purple along the veins, the middle sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, 11 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovate, acute, acuminate synsepal, 13 mm long, 7 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** translucent, strongly marked with red-purple as the sepals, glabrous, ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 11 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** purple, transversely triangular, obtuse, 1.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lateral angles acute, incurved, the margins thickened, the disc with a rounded, microscopically pubescent callus; **column** stout, 1 mm long; pollinia 8.

PERU: **Cusco:** Machu Picchu, Quebrada Alccamay, terrestrial in loose sphagnum moss, alt. 3,000-3,200 m, collected by E. Quispe, R. Ojeda, J. Gutierrez & B. Arenas, flowered in cultivation by Inkaterra, Oct. 2009, *Carmen Soto* 5 (Holotype of *B. carmeniae*: USM), C. Luer illustr. 21496.

*Brachionidium carmeniae* is apparently endemic in the region around Machu Picchu, where it grows terrestrially in loose sphagnum moss at a high altitude. *Brachionidium carmeniae* is distinguished by scurfy, cauline sheaths; small, more or less spreading, elliptical leaves with the veins and margins markedly lacerate; translucent ovate, acute and acuminate sepals and petals boldly marked with red-purple along the veins and margins; and a transverse, obtuse lip with thick margins and a solitary, round callus.

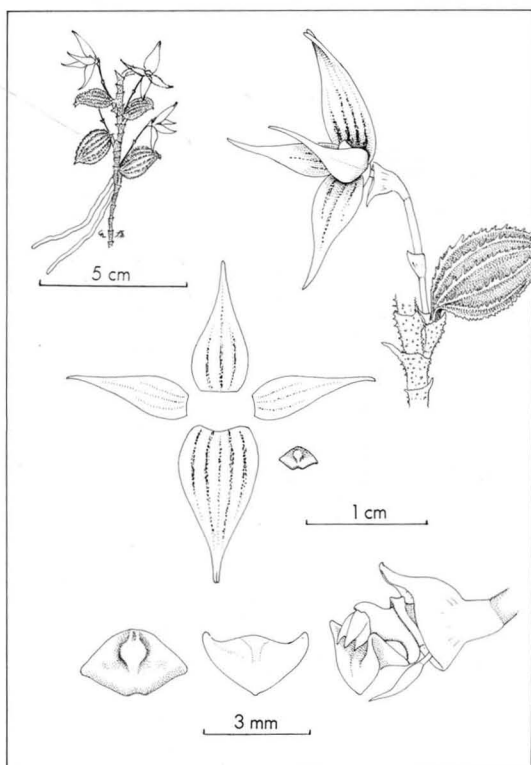


Fig. 1. *Brachionidium carmeniae*