

***Brachionidium dalstroemii* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta robusta stricta, rhizomate crassissimo vaginis acuminatis laxe vestito, pedunculo crasso brevissimo, sepalo impari synsepalo petalisque longicaudatis eciliatis, labello crasso transverse ovato cum callo plano.

Plant large, robust, epiphytic, the rhizome erect, straight, up to 50 cm tall, occasionally branching, 2.5-4 cm long between ramicauls, 3-4 mm thick, with 3 loosely fitting, long-acuminate sheaths; roots coarse. Ramicauls 6-10 mm long, suberect, enclosed by 2 similar sheaths. Leaf suberect, coriaceous, purple beneath, 18-28 mm long including a petiole 2-4 mm long, the blade elliptical, acute, 7-11 mm wide, the base cuneate into the petiole. Inflorescence a single, light yellow, non-resupinate flower borne by a stout peduncle 5-6 mm long, enclosed by 2 inflated, imbricating sheaths, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acuminate, 7 mm long; pedicel thick, 0.5 mm long, with a protruding filament 7-8 mm long; ovary 2 mm long, 2 mm thick; sepals eciliate, the middle sepal elliptical, 28 mm long, 6 mm wide, 3-veined, the acute apex acuminate into a long, slender tail, the lateral sepals connate into a triangular-ovate, acute, acuminate, long-tailed lamina, 28 mm long, 6 mm wide expanded, 4-veined, the filiform apices of the tails free for 8-9 mm; petals ovate, oblique, eciliate, acute, acuminate, long-caudate, 27 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 3-veined; lip transversely tra-

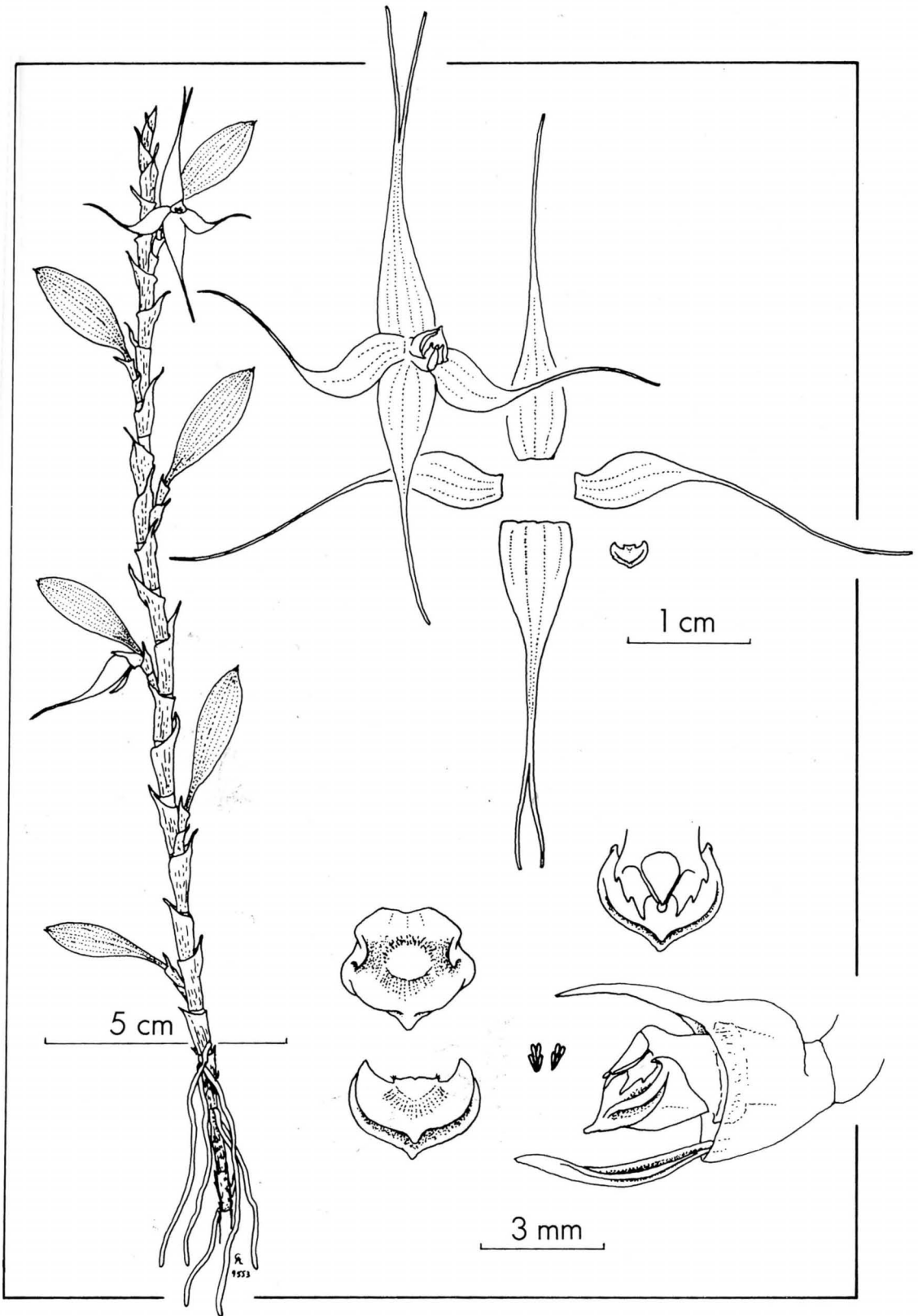
peziform, 3 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lateral angles acute, uncinata, incurved, the apex obtuse with marginal calli, the disc with a central, flattened, minutely pubescent callus; column 2 mm long, the margins of the stigmatic lobes 2- to 3-dentate; pollinia 8.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Stig Dalström of Borlänge, Sweden, who discovered this species.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of Loja: epiphytic in cloud forest between Loja and Saraguro, alt. 3,150 m, 17 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & J. Kuijt 9553 (Holotype: MO).

This distinctive species was found by Stig Dalström in the dense, scrubby vegetation at the pass north of Loja in southern Ecuador. As is so often the case in this genus, only one specimen was discovered. Fortunately, a fine flower was present. Too often specimens of *Brachionidium* are found without flowers, a frustrating event. Since most of these plants of high altitudes refuse to adapt to cultivation, positive identification is impossible. Therefore, a repeat visit to the locality will be attempted.

This species is easily distinguished by the straight, thick, erect rhizome with comparatively small, alternating leaves about every 3-4 cm. The flower is borne by a short, thick peduncle concealed by the middle and basal bracts. The sepals and petals are eciliate with long, slender tails.



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