

Brachionidium dentatum Luer & Dressler, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *dentatus*, "toothed," referring to the labellum.

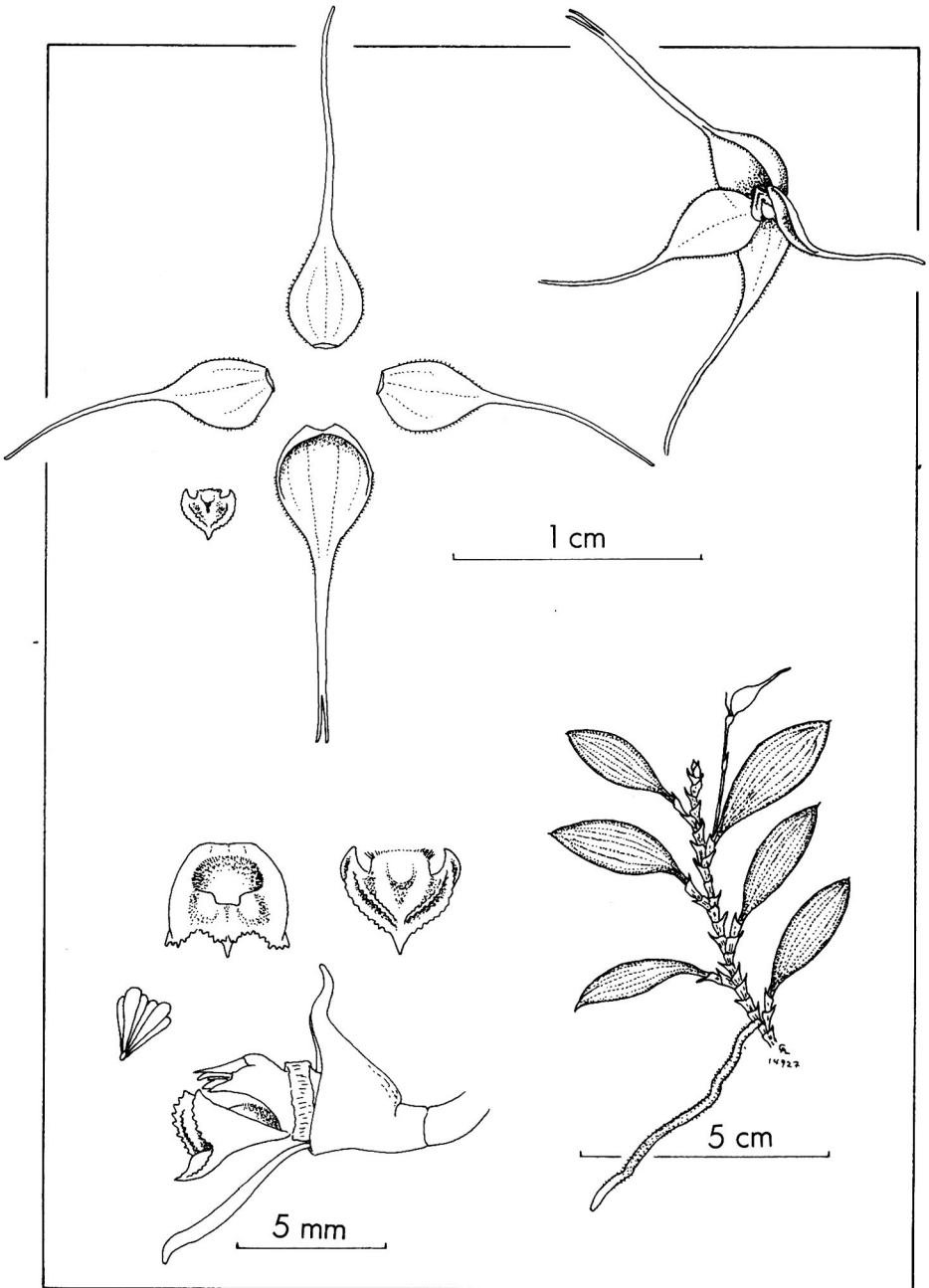
Planta mediocris suberecta rhizomate crasso vaginis glabris longimucronatis, foliis ellipticis 7-nervatis, nervis crassis carinatis, flore parvo, sepalo mediano synsepaloque ovatis longicaudatis, petalis similibus, labello transverse ovoideo, lobis lateralibus acutis incurvatis, apice obtuso apiculato, marginibus denticulatis cum crista submarginali, disco cum callo grandi suborbiculari pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic or terrestrial in loose humus, erect to suberect, up to 10 cm or more tall, the rhizome relatively stout, occasionally branching, 5-6 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2-3 tubular, long-mucronate sheaths; roots coarse from near the base. Ramicauls stout, suberect, 5-6 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular, long-mucronate sheaths. Leaf erect or suberect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 22-33 mm long including a petiole 2-3 mm long, 8-10 mm wide, 7-veined, the veins thick, carinate. Inflorescence a solitary, non-resupinate flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 20-25 mm long, with a mucronate bract near the middle, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acute, mucronate, 4 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and the ovary; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament 5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals appear to have been purple, minutely ciliate, the middle sepal narrowly ovate-suborbicular, concave, the blade 5 mm long, 3 mm wide unexpanded, 3-veined, the apex obtuse, contracted into a filiform tail 9 mm long, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, concave synsepal, the blade 5 mm long, 4 mm wide, 5.5 mm wide expanded, 4-veined, the apex obtuse, acuminate into a slender tail 13 mm long, the tips free for 2 mm; petals broadly ovate, oblique, minutely ciliate, the blade 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex subacute, contracted into a filiform tail 8 mm long; lip transversely ovoid, 2 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the lateral angles acute, incurved, the apex obtuse, apiculate, the margins denticulate-erose, with a denticulate crest inside the margins, the disc with a comparatively large, rounded, elevated, pubescent callus; column stout, 1 mm long, pollinia 6.

PANAMA: Prov. of Chiriquí: above Cerro Punta, alt. ca. 2800 m, collected and cultivated by A. Maduro, flowered in cultivation at Cerro Punta, July 1979, *R. L. Dressler s.n.* (Holotype: MO), *C. Luer illustr.* 14927.

This species is apparently endemic in the wet cloud forest of Cerro Punta in western Panama where it was discovered by Robert Dressler and Andres Maduro. It is distinguished by the erect habit with elliptical leaves with carinate veins, a character found in very few species. The flowers are comparatively small and dark purple. The sepals and petals are minutely ciliate and long-caudate. The unique lip is more or less cordate-ovate and bimarginate with two toothed crests, one within the outer margin.



Plate 12. *Brachionidium dentatum* Luer & Dressler