

Brachionidium dodsonii Luer, sp. nov.

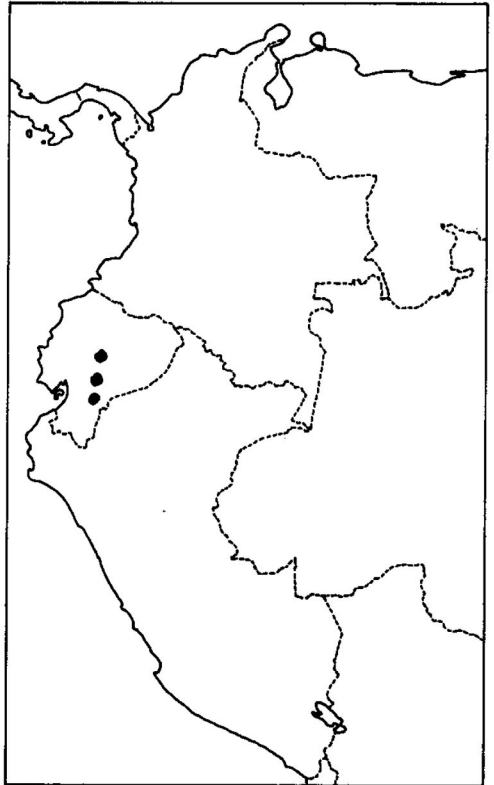
Ety.: Named in honor of Dr. Calaway H. Dodson, who discovered this species.

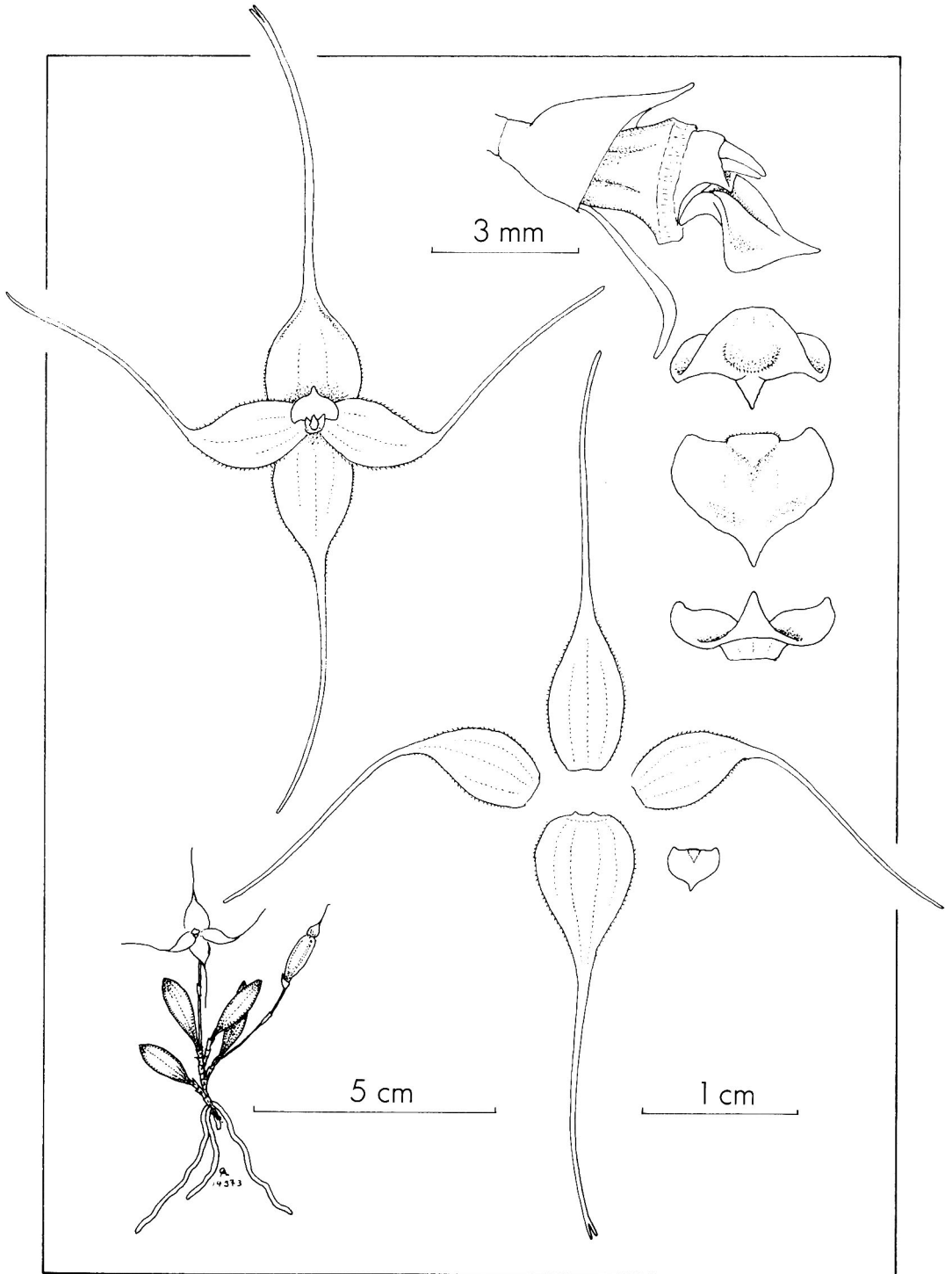
Planta parva erecta rhizomate radicebusque crassis, floribus pro planta magnis, sepalo impari synsepalo petalisque ciliatis longicaudatis et labello transverse ovato acuto, angulis lateralibus rotundatis, callo humili.

Plant small, erect in loose moss, up to 5 cm tall, the rhizomes stout, 3-8 mm long between ramicauls, with 2-3 tubular, mucronate sheaths; roots coarse, produced from nodes near the base of the rhizome. Ramicauls suberect, slender, 2-4 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, longitudinally veined, elliptical, acute, 10-15 mm long, 5-7 mm wide, 7-veined, the base cuneate into a petiole 1-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** a solitary, non-resupinate flower borne by an erect, slender peduncle 15-22 mm long, with a bract below the middle and at the base; floral bract infundibular, mucronate, 4 mm long, enclosing the pedicel; pedicel thick, 1 mm long, with a protruding filament 4 mm long; ovary stout, 2 mm long; **sepals** translucent light green, minutely ciliate, the middle sepal elliptical, 7-9 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex acute, acuminate into a filiform tail 10-18 mm long, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovate, concave synsepal, 8-9 mm long, 7.5 mm wide expanded, 4-veined, the apex acute, acuminate into a filiform tail 15-18 mm long, bifid at the tip; **petals** similar to the sepals, translucent light green, minutely ciliate, ovate, oblique, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex acute, acuminate into filiform tail 14-16 mm long; **lip** transversely ovate, 2.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the apex obtusely acuminate, the lateral angles broadly rounded, suberect, the disc with a low, central, shortly pubescent callus, the base deflexed, hinged to the column-foot; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm broad, bidentate; pollinia 6.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Napo: Cordillera de Guacamayo, between Baeza and Archidona, terrestrial on wet road cut, alt. 1850 m, 22 June 1987, C. H. Dodson & M. W. Chase 17206 (Holotype: MO; Isotype: K), C. Luer illustr. 14373. Prov. of Morona-Santiago: terrestrial on a road embankment above the Paute Dam, alt. 1650 m, 25 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Andretta, A. Jesup & P. Jesup 14065 (MO); wet forest northwest of Macas, alt. 1750 m, 17 Feb. 1993, S. Dalström, T. Höjjer & H. Wanntorp 1915 (MO).

This small species is apparently endemic in forests of medium altitude on the eastern declivities of the Andes of central Ecuador. It is known to grow locally and abundantly in deep moss that covers wet road embankments. Although superficially similar to other small, erect species with long-caudate and ciliate sepals and petals, i.e. Central American *B. folsomii*, the lip of *B. dodsonii* is distinct. The lip is transversely ovate with a simple margin and an acuminate, or shortly acuminate apex. The lip of *B. folsomii* is roundly obtuse and minutely denticulate.



Plate 14. *Brachionidium dodsonii* Luer