

**Brachionidium dressleri** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named in honor of Dr. Robert L. Dressler who first discovered this species.

Planta grandis suberecta rhizomate crasso vaginis glabris, foliis latis multinerviatis, flore grandi pulcherrimo, sepalis medio synsepaloque ovatis acuminatis minutissime ciliatis longissime caudatis, petalis similibus, labello crasso late ovato denticulato.

**Plant** large, epiphytic or terrestrial in loose moss, erect to suberect, up to 40 cm tall, the rhizome stout, occasionally branching, 1-3 cm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2-4 pale, tubular, mucronate sheaths; roots coarse from nodes and near the base. Ramicauls stout, suberect, 5-15 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular, mucronate sheaths. **Leaf** erect or suberect, coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 2-4 cm long including a petiole 2-4 mm long, 1-2 cm wide, 11- to 15-veined. **Inflorescence** a solitary, showy, non-resupinate flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 4-5 cm long, with a bract near the middle, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acute, mucronate, 5 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and part of the ovary; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament 5-8 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** wine purple, minutely ciliate, the middle sepal elliptical-ovate, acute, acuminate, the blade 8-17 mm long, 6-10 mm wide, 3-veined, the tail filiform, 2-5 cm long; lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acute, acuminate synsepal, the blade 8-18 mm long, 6-8 mm wide, 4-veined, the apex split into two tails for 1-2 cm, 2-5 cm long; **petals** wine red, minutely ciliate, ovate, oblique, subacute, acuminate, the blade 7-15 mm long, 5-8 mm wide, 3-veined, the tail 13-25 mm long; **lip** purple, broadly ovate, with the margins denticulate, with the apex rounded, apiculate, 3.5-4 mm long, 3.5-4 mm wide, the basal angles short, erect, the disc thickened with a lesser denticulate line within the within the margin, and a well-delineated oblong glenion at the base, the base broadly and acutely deflexed, hinged to the column-foot; **column** stout, 1 mm long; pollinia 6.

PANAMA: Prov. of Chiriquí: La Chumbada, above Guadalupe, 15 July 1979, *R. L. Dressler* 5837 (Holotype: MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 14558; near the border between Chiriquí and Bocas del Toro northeast of Boquete along the continental divide above Palo Alto past Cerro Pate Macho, alt. 7,000 ft., *R. L. Dressler* 6103 (MO); same area, trail to Cerro La Trompeta, alt. 6300 ft., 25 May 1979, *B. Hammel* 7458 (MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 17013; Cerro Hornitos, 40 Km northwest of Gualaca, alt. 2238 m, 26 July 1975, *S. Mori* & *A. Bolten* 7484 (MO); Dist. Bugaba, Cerro Punta, alt. 2200 m, 26 Jan. 1985, *H. van der Werff* & *J. Herrera* 6424 (MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 14377.

COSTA RICA: Prov. of Puntarenas: Coto Brus Las Mellizas, between Cerro Pando and Cerro Nubes, alt. 2465 m, 15 Aug. 1989, *A. Chacón* 327 (CR, MO).

This handsome species is apparently endemic in the wet cloud forests along the crests of mountains in western Panama and adjacent Costa Rica. It was first discovered by Robert Dressler along the continental divide above Boquete. It is identified by the large, robust, more or less erect habit; comparatively large, elliptical leaves; and large, purple flowers. The sepals and petals are reflexed, minutely ciliate and long-tailed. The lip is more or less semi-circular in outline, the apex with an apiculum. The margins are denticulate with an irregular line of denticles just within the margin. Among various populations the size of the sepals and petals, and the lengths of their tails are variable, but the morphology of the lip remains the same.



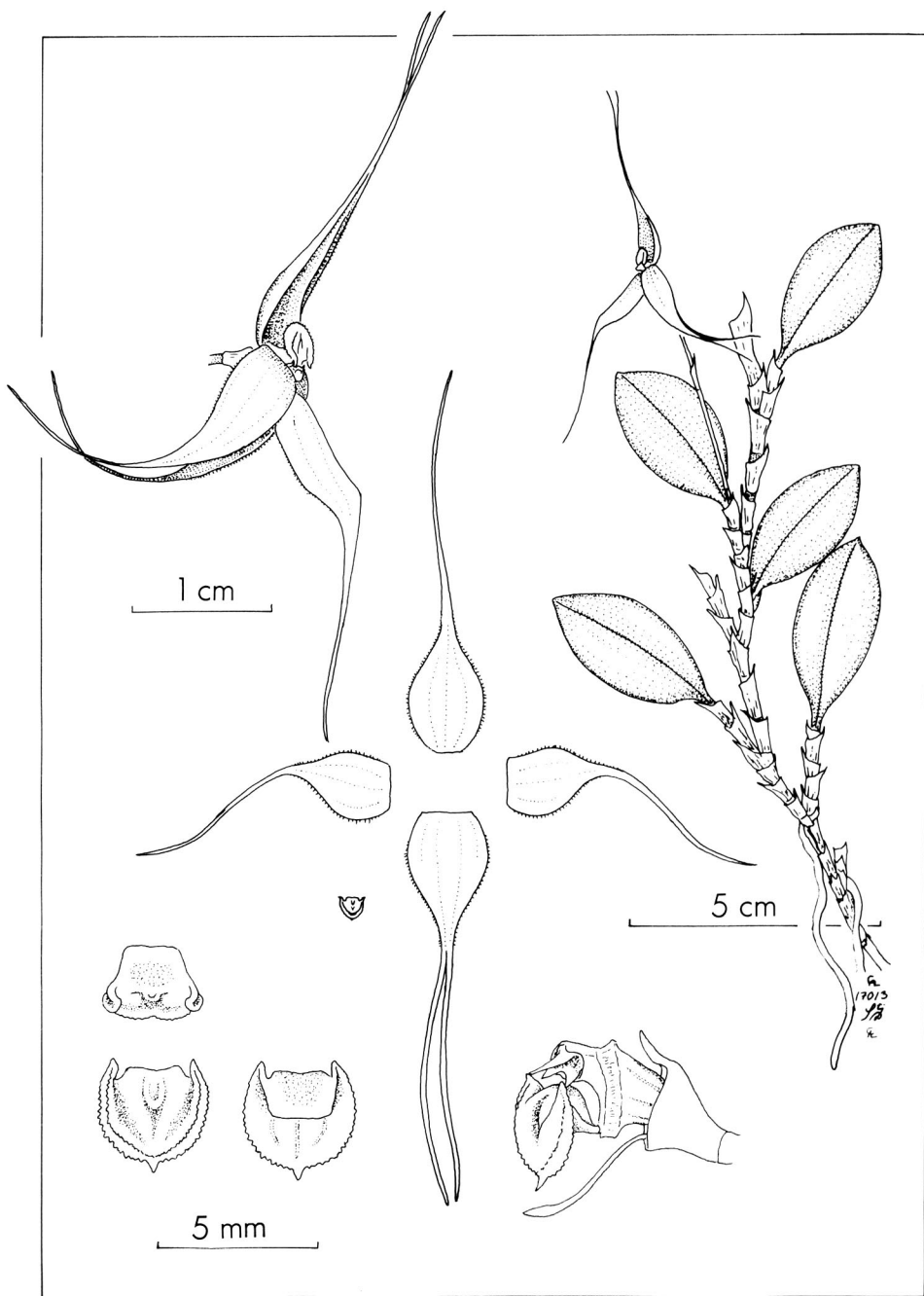


Plate 15. *Brachionidium dressleri* Luer