

***Brachionidium filamentosum* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *filamentosus*, "filamentous," referring to the attenuate floral parts.

Planta perparva repens rhizomate gracili vaginis glabris longissime mucronatis, foliis late ellipticis longi-mucronatis 3-nervatis, flore tenui, sepalo mediano synsepaloque breviter ciliatis anguste triangularibus longissime attenuatis filiformibus, petalis glabris filiformibus, labello ovato concavo obtuso apiculato callo pubescenti.

Plant very small, epiphytic, repent, up to 10 cm or more long, the rhizome slender, occasionally branching, 3-5 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 3 tubular, long-mucronate sheaths; roots slender, from nodes along the rhizome. Ramicauls suberect, 1-1.5 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular, long-mucronate sheaths. **Leaf** erect or suberect, coriaceous, elliptical, with the apex obtuse, notched, long-apiculate, the blade 5-6 mm long including a petiole 1 mm long, 3.5-4 mm wide, 3-veined, broadly cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a solitary, non-resupinate, delicate flower borne by a filamentous, erect peduncle 15-18 mm long, with a bract near the middle, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acute, 2 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and part of the ovary; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament 2 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** translucent, suffused with brown on the middle thirds, minutely ciliate, the middle sepal narrowly triangular, acute, long-acuminate, 17 mm long, 1.75 mm wide at the base, 1(3)-veined, the lateral sepals connate into a narrowly triangular, acute, entire, long-acuminate synsepal, 18 mm long, 2 mm wide at the base, 2-veined; **petals** translucent, glabrous, narrowly triangular, oblique, acute, long-acuminate, filiform, 12 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** ovate, concave, not deflexed upon itself, 1.25 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the sides broadly rounded, incurved, the apex acute, apiculate, the disc with a raised, flat, pubescent callus above the base; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long; pollinia 6.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Esmeraldas: epiphytic in mossy forest west of Lita toward San Lorenzo, alt. 700 m, 12 Jan. 1992, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. & X. Hirtz, P. & A. Jesup, M. Evans & J. del Hierro 15563 (Holotype: MO).

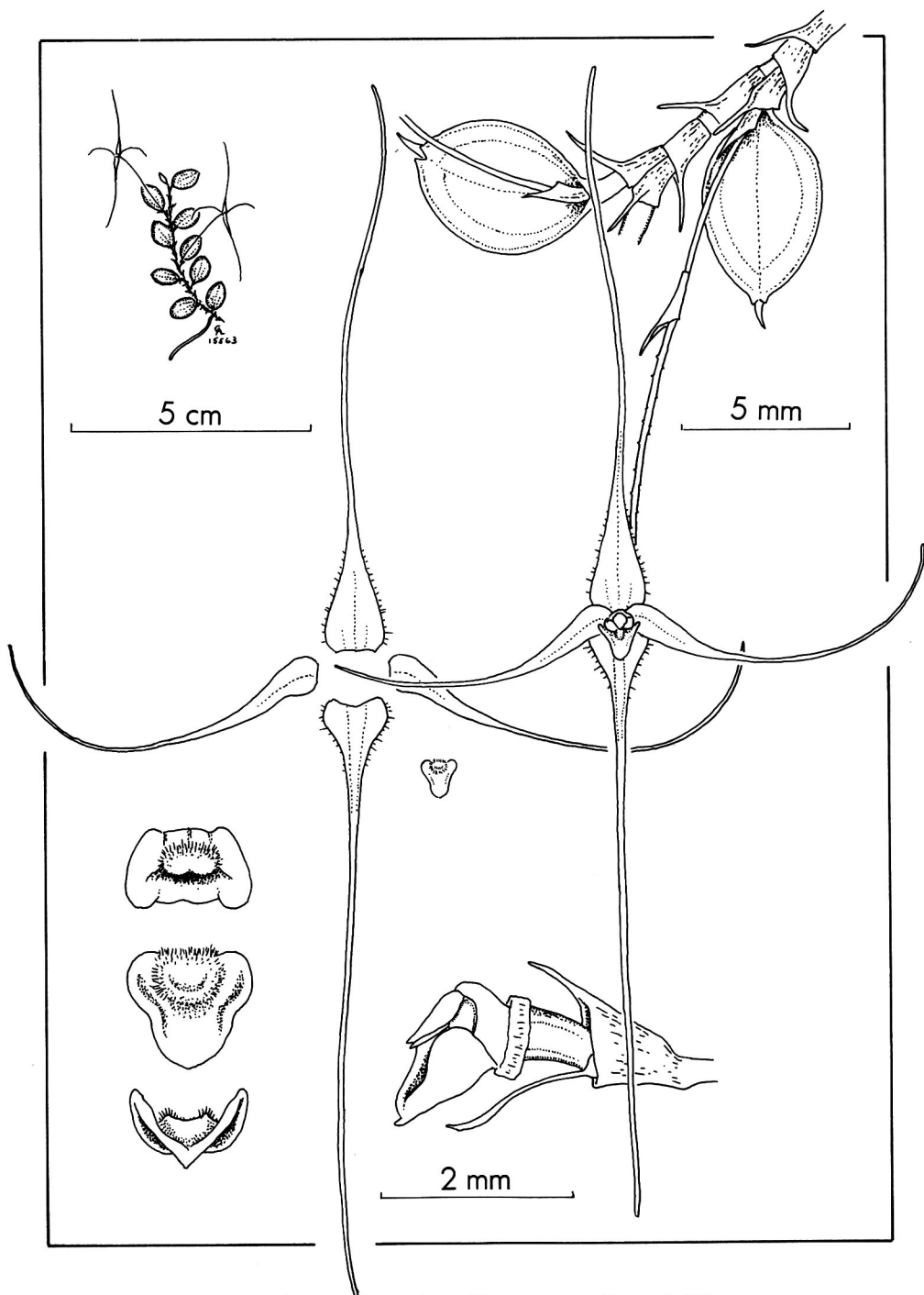
COLOMBIA: Dept. of Chocó: epiphytic, south-west ridge leading to Alturas de Nique on the Panamanian border, alt. 1100-1200 m, 30 Dec. 1980, R. L. Hartman 12434 (MO), C. Luer illustr. 14812.

PANAMA: Prov. of Darien: epiphytic in mossy, cloud forest along Cuasi-Cana trail between Cerro Campamiento and La Escalera, "páramo" east of Tres Bocas, 30 Apr. 1968, J. H. Kirkbride, Jr. & J. A. Duke 1281 (MO).

This tiny species occurs in the low, wet forests from the Darien of Panama and the Chocó of Colombia to lowland northwestern Ecuador. It is reminiscent of other minute, creeping species with more or less round leaves, but *B. filamentosum* is distinguished by the long, hairlike tails of the floral parts, and an ovate, concave lip with an apiculate apex.

The Panamanian collection cited above is without flowers, but identical plants from a nearby locality in Colombia leave little doubt about their identity.



Plate 20. *Brachionidium filamentosum* Luer & Hirtz