

Brachionidium furfuraceum Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *furfuraceus*, "scurfy," referring to the scaly sheaths of the rhizomes.

Planta grandis erecta stricta rhizomate crasso ramoso vaginis valde furfuraceis, foliis anguste ellipticis acutis, flore grandi pulcherrimo, sepalis impari ovato acuminato, synsepalo grandi late ovato profunde concavo brevicaudato et labello late trapeziformi calloso obtuso apiculato.

Plant large, terrestrial, erect, up to 25 cm or more tall, the rhizome stout, branching, 1.5-2.5 cm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 3 scurfy, tubular sheaths, acute at the apex and lightly fimbriate along the lower margin; roots from the rhizome toward the base. Ramicauls stout, suberect, 9-11 mm long, enclosed by 2 similar, scurfy sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, minutely denticulate above the middle, narrowly linear-elliptical, acute, 23-33 mm long including a petiole 1-2 mm long, 4-6 mm wide, longitudinally 7-veined. **Inflorescence** a solitary, showy, non-resupinate flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 3.5-4.5 cm long, with a bract near the middle, and another at the base, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, mucronate, 6 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and ovary; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament 5 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** maroon, eciliate, the middle sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, 21 mm long, 7 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals totally connate into a broadly ovate-suborbicular, obtuse, deeply concave synsepal, 18 mm long, 16 mm wide expanded, 4-veined, the apex contracted into a slender tail 4 mm long; **petals** maroon, eciliate, oblong, oblique, subacute, the blade 13 mm long, 6.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex acuminate into a filiform tail 9 mm long; **lip** purple, transversely trapeziform, 3 mm long, 4 mm wide, the lateral angles subacute, the apical margin broadly thickened, broadly rounded, shortly apiculate, the disc within ovoid, shortly pubescent callus wide, with a glenion; **column** stout, 2 mm long, pollinia unknown.

PERU: Dept. of Amazonas: Prov. of Bagua, Cordillera Colán southeast of La Peca, alt. 8000 ft., terrestrial in elfin bog, 25 Sept. 1978, *P. Barbour 3561* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 14380.

This species, known from a single collection from northern Peru, is similar to *B. elegans* from southern Ecuador. The rhizomes of both species are stout and erect with scurfy sheaths. The leaves of *B. furfuraceum* are erect, considerably narrower and acute. Florally the two species are similar in size with a cucullate, short-tailed synsepal. The petals of *B. furfuraceum* are eciliate. The lip of *B. furfuraceum* is nearly as long as broad with narrow, marginal surfaces. The callus at the base is low. The lip of *B. elegans* is considerably broader than long with broad, marginal surfaces. The callus at the base is high.



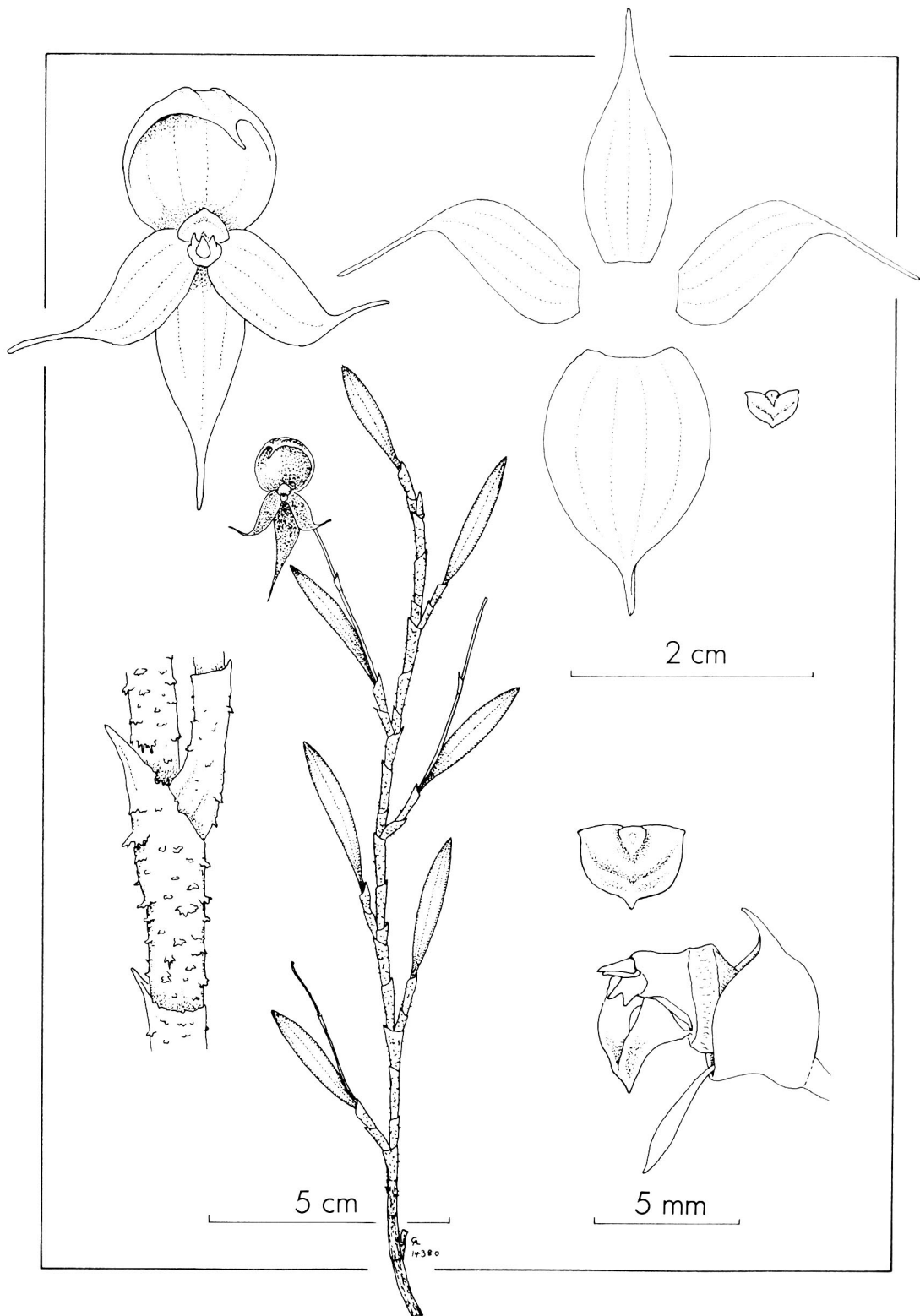


Plate 23. *Brachionidium furfuraceum* Luer