

Brachionidium inkaterrense Luer & C.Soto, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for the Inkaterreae Garden where this species is cultivated.

Species haec *Brachionidio eleganti* Luer & Hirtz affinis, sed foliis minute sparsim asperatis, petalis dense ciliatis et labelli lobis oblique uncinatis differt.

Plant small to medium in size, terrestrial, suberect, up to 10 cm or more tall, the rhizome stout, 2-3 mm thick, 5-10 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 3 tubular, mucronate, scurfy sheaths; roots coarse, from near the base. Ramicauls slender, erect, ca. 10 mm long, enclosed by 2 similar, tubular, scurfy sheaths. **Leaf** more or less spreading, coriaceous, elliptical-oblong, the apex obtuse with a decurved apiculum, the blade 18-20 mm long, contracted below into a petiole ca. 1 mm long, 11-13 mm wide, 7-veined, the veins minutely spiculate. **Inflorescence** a solitary, non-resupinate flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 10-15 mm long, with a bract near the middle, from the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acute, 3-5 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and ovary; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament 3-4 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** translucent, glabrous, strongly marked with red-purple along the veins, the middle sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, 12 mm long, 5.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovate, acute, acuminate synsepal, 14 mm long, 8 mm wide, 4-veined; **petals** translucent, strongly marked with red-purple as the sepals, densely short-ciliate, narrowly ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, 12 mm long, 4 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** purple, transversely subtriangular, obtuse, 2 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, the lateral angles oblique, uncinately acute, incurved, the margins smooth, the disc with an elevated, rounded, microscopically pubescent callus; **column** stout, 1 mm long; pollinia 8.

PERU: **Cusco:** Machu Picchu, Quebrada Alccamayo, terrestrial in loose, sphagnum moss, alt. 3,000-3,200 m, collected by E. Quispe, R. Ojeda & J. Gutierrez, flowered in cultivation by Inkaterrea, Oct. 2009, *Carmen Soto 6* (Holotype of *B. inkaterrense*: USM), C. Luer illustr. 21497.

Brachionidium inkaterrense, apparently endemic in the region of Machu Picchu, grows terrestrially in loose, sphagnum moss at a high altitude. It is distinguished by scurfy, cauline sheaths; elliptical-oblong, obtuse, spreading leaves that are sparsely and minutely spiculate, especially along the veins; ovate, acuminate sepals and petals, with the petals densely short-ciliate; and with a central, elevated, round callus of the lip, with lateral angles that are oblique with acute, shortly acuminate tips.

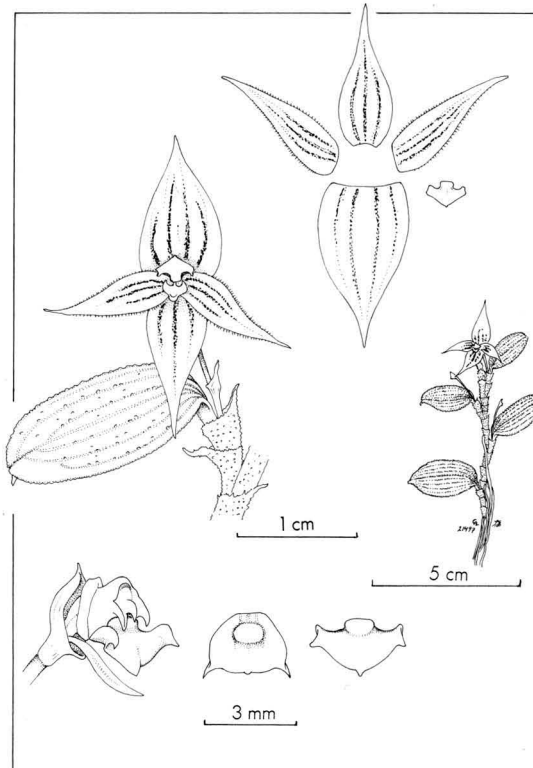


Fig. 2. *Brachionidium inkaterrense*