

Brachionidium jesupiae Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named in honor of Ann Luer Jesup of Bristol, Ct., who discovered this species.

Planta perparva longirepens rhizomate gracili elongato, pedunculo gracili folio elliptico leviter longiore, sepalis petalisque translucetibus eciliatis longicaudatis, labello transverse ovato, angulis lateralibus acutis, apice obtuso apiculato, marginibus canaliculatis.

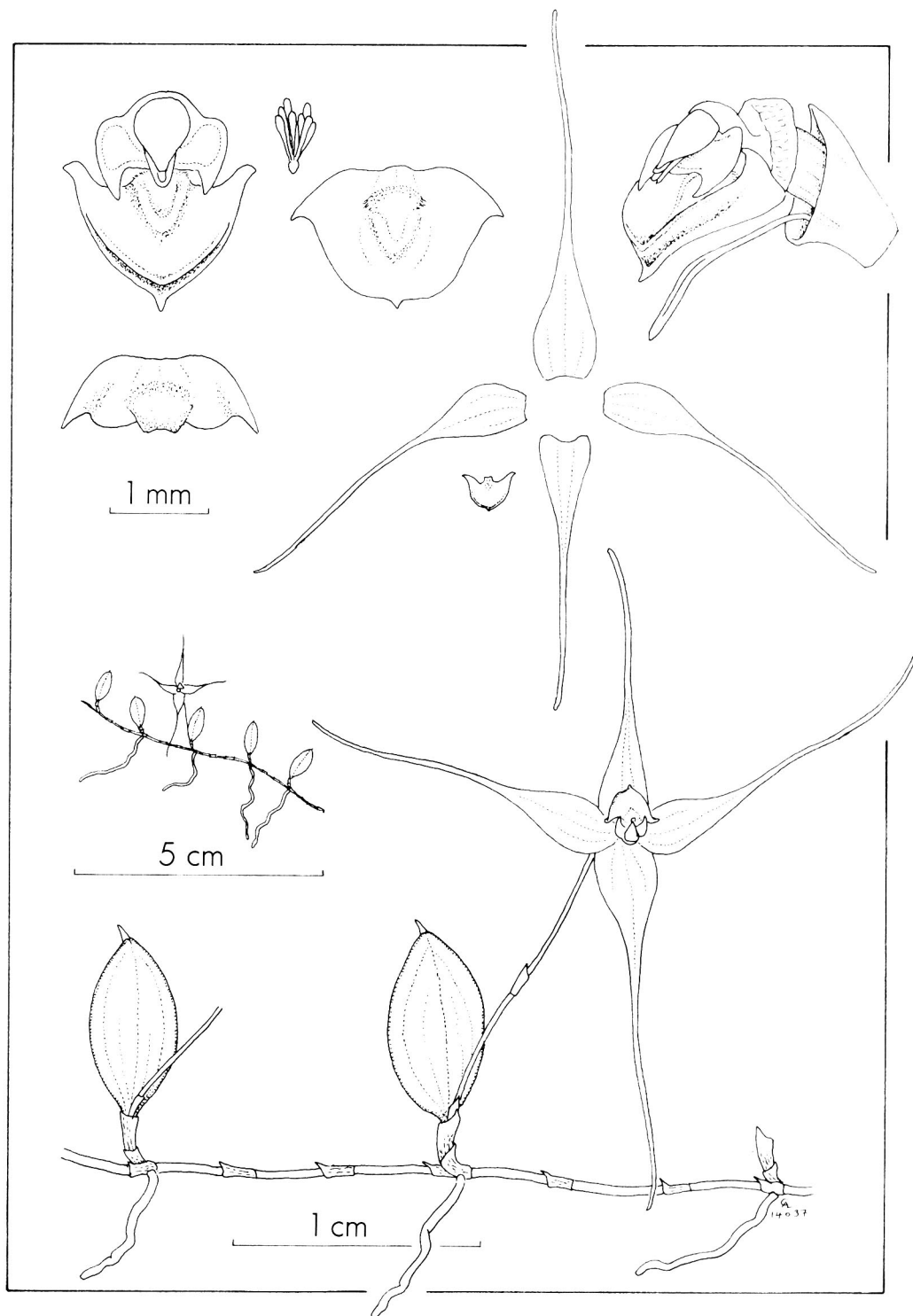
Plant very small, epiphytic, repent, the rhizomes slender, occasionally branching, 10-13 mm long between ramicauls, with 3 closely fitting sheaths, each 1 mm long; root solitary from nodes, comparatively coarse. Ramicauls suberect, slender, 0.5-1 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect to suberect, coriaceous, elliptical, 5-7.5 mm long, 3.5-4 mm wide, 5-veined, the apex subacute with an apiculum, the base cuneate into a petiole 0.5-1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a solitary, light yellow-green, non-resupinate flower borne by an erect, slender peduncle 11-14 mm long, with a bract near the middle and at the base; floral bract, smooth, 3 mm long, enclosing pedicel and ovary; pedicels thick, 0.5 mm long, with a protruding filament 2.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** eciliate, the middle sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, long-caudate, 15 mm long including the filiform tail 10 mm long, 2.75 mm wide near the base, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into a narrowly triangular, acute, long-attenuate synsepal 11 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined; **petals** eciliate, ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, long-caudate, 13 mm long including the filiform tail 8 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** transversely ovate, 1.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, with acute lateral angles, the apex rounded, abruptly apiculate, with marginal calli, the disc with a central, flattened, ovoid callus, ciliate on the sides, with a glenion, the broad base hinged to the column-foot; column stout, 1 mm long, bidentate; pollinia 8.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Zamora-Chinipe: Cordillera del Condor, epiphytic on mossy tree trunk in cloud forest east of Los Encuentros, alt. 1650 m, 21 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, & P. Jesup & A. Jesup 14037 (Holotype: MO).

This very small species was found growing hidden in deep moss on a fallen tree trunk in the Cordillera del Condor by Ann Jesup. It is not known from any other collection, but it is closely allied to *B. capillare*. Both species have been successfully cultivated in Bristol, Connecticut, where a profusion of flowers often covers the dense mass of plants that overflow the pot.

Brachionidium jesupiae is identified by the minute, long-creeping habit with tiny, elliptical, apiculate leaves, and small, very long-tailed, non-ciliate, yellow-green flowers. The margin of the transverse lip is conspicuously channeled along the margins. The leaves of *B. capillare* are round, and the margin of the lip is entire. Both species possess eight pollinia.



Plate 28. *Brachionidium jesupiae* Luer