

**Brachionidium lucanoideum** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for the resemblance of the lip to a stag beetle (genus *Lucanus*).

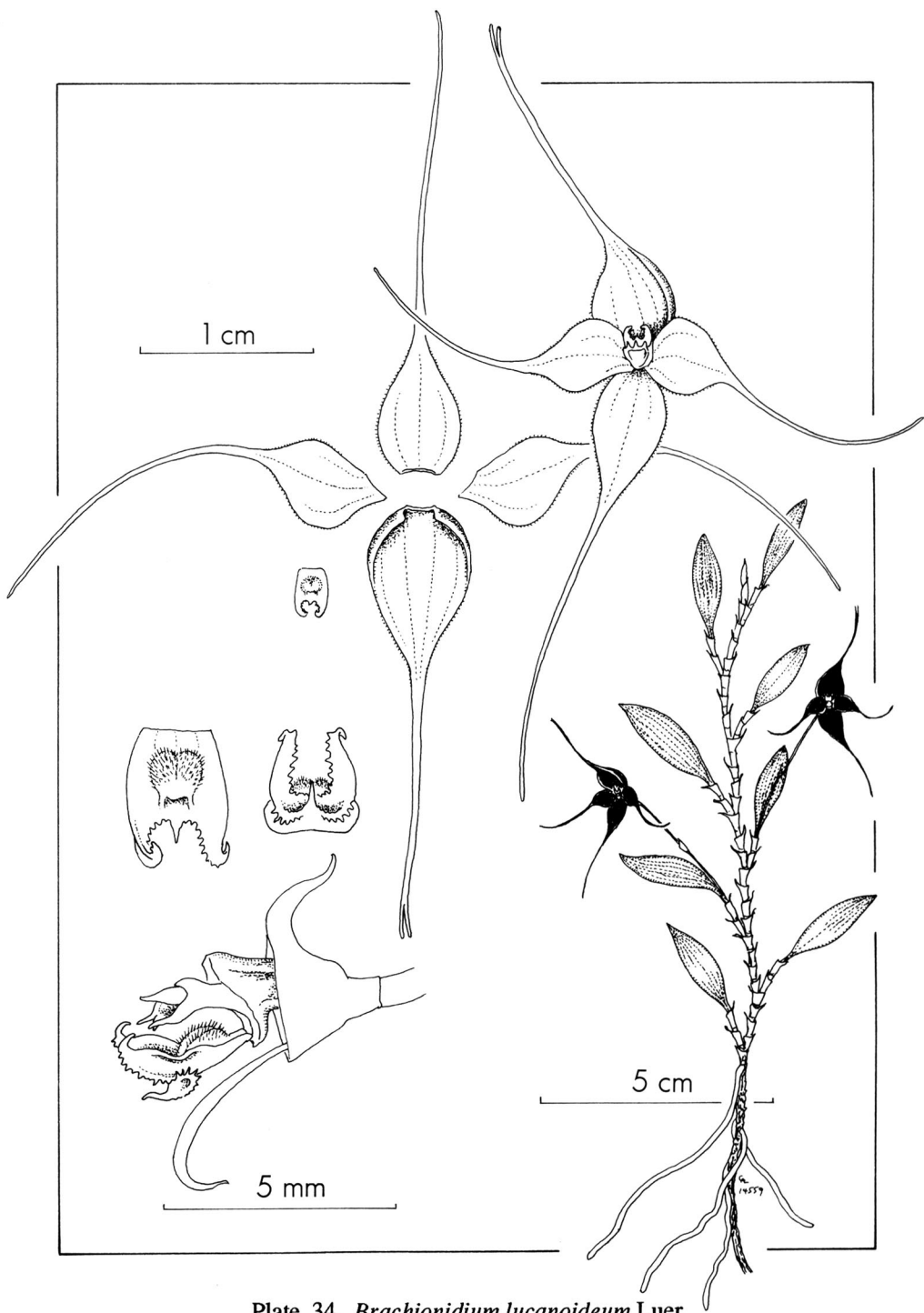
Planta grandis suberecta rhizomate gracili vaginis glabris, foliis ellipticis, 7-nervatis, flore atropurpureo, sepalo mediano synsepaloque ovatis acuminatis minutissime ciliatis longissime caudatis, synsepalo profunde concavo, petalis similibus, labello subquadrato-trilobatis, lobis lateralibus elongatis antrorsis fimbriatis apiculatis, lobo mediano brevi apiculato, callo suborbiculato pubescenti.

Plant large, epiphytic or terrestrial in loose moss, erect to suberect, up to 30 cm tall, the rhizome relatively slender, occasionally branching, 10-17 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2-3 tubular, mucronate sheaths; roots coarse from near the base. Ramicauls slender, suberect, 6-7 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular, mucronate sheaths. Leaf erect or suberect, coriaceous, whitish beneath, elliptical, acute to subacute, 15-28 mm long including a petiole 2-3 mm long, 6-10 mm wide, 7-veined. Inflorescence a solitary, non-resupinate flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 20-28 mm long, with a bract near the middle, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acute, mucronate, 4 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and part of the ovary; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament 5 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; sepals dark wine purple, minutely ciliate, the middle sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, the blade 8 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the tail filiform, 2 cm long; lateral sepals connate into an ovate, deeply concave, acute, acuminate, synsepal, the blade 10 mm long, 8 mm wide expanded, 4-veined, the tail filiform, 1.5 cm long, the tips free for 2 mm; petals deep wine red, minutely ciliate, ovate, oblique, subacute, acuminate, the blade 6 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the tail 17 mm long; lip purple, subquadrate-trilobed, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, the lateral angles elongated, antrorse, fimbriate, acute, apiculate, the middle lobe short, apiculate, the disc with a suborbicular, pubescent callus; column stout, bidentate, 2 mm long; pollinia 6.

PANAMA: Prov. of Chiriquí: elfin forest along the ridge of the continental divide northeast of Cerro Pate Macho above Palo Alto, alt. 2200 m, 24 Apr. 1982, S. Knapp & R. Schmalzel 4829 (Holotype: MO; Isotypes: AMES, K, US), C. Luer illustr. 14559.

This species is apparently endemic in a wet, cloud forest along the continental divide in western Panama where it was discovered by Knapp and Schmalzel of the Florida State University. It is identified by the more or less erect habit; elliptical leaves; dark purple flowers produced in abundance; and minutely ciliate, long-caudate sepals and petals. From vegetatively similar, sympatric species (*B. calypso*, *B. dressleri* and *B. satyreum*) *B. lucanoideum* is distinguished by a unique, subquadrate lip with elongated antrorse lateral lobes that are fimbriate and apiculate, and with a small, apiculate, middle lobe. The rounded callus in the middle of the disc is pubescent.



Plate 34. *Brachionidium lucanoideum* Luer