

Brachionidium minusculum Luer & Dressler, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *minusculus*, "very small," referring to the habit of the plant.

Species haec *B. pusillo* Ames & Schweinf. similis, sed foliis minoribus, pedunculo brevior, synsepalo petalisque glabris et labello minore cum angulis lateralibus brevioribus falcatis differt.

Plant very small in size, epiphytic, long-repent, the rhizome slender, occasionally branching, up to 10 cm long or longer, 5-10 mm long between ramicauls, each segment with 3 shortly mucronate sheaths; roots produced singly from a node. Ramicauls suberect, 0.5 mm long, enclosed by a similar sheath. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, elliptical, 4-5 mm long, 2.5-3 mm wide, obtuse and minutely forked and apiculate at the apex, 5-veined, cuneate below to the base. **Inflorescence** a solitary, small, resupinate flower comparatively large for the plant, borne by an erect peduncle 3.5 mm long, with a bract above the base, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract infundibular, acute, apiculate, 1.5 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and ovary; pedicel 0.3 mm long, with a filament 2 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** translucent purple, the middle sepal sparsely short-ciliate, ovate, acute, acuminate, caudate, 7 mm long including the filiform tail 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals glabrous, completely connate into a narrowly triangular, acute, acuminate, caudate synsepal, 6 mm long including the tail, 1 mm wide, 2-veined; **petals** translucent purple, glabrous, ovate, slightly oblique, acute, acuminate, caudate, 6.5 mm long including the filiform tail, 1 mm wide, 1(3)-veined; **lip** transversely trapeziform, 0.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the lateral angles falcate, acute, the apex rounded, concave, apiculate, the disc with an ovoid, minutely pubescent callus; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, bidentate, pollinia presumably 6.

COSTA RICA: Prov. of Cartago: Tapantí, alt. m, R. L. Dressler & Dora Mora de Retana s.n. (Holotype: CR; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17244.

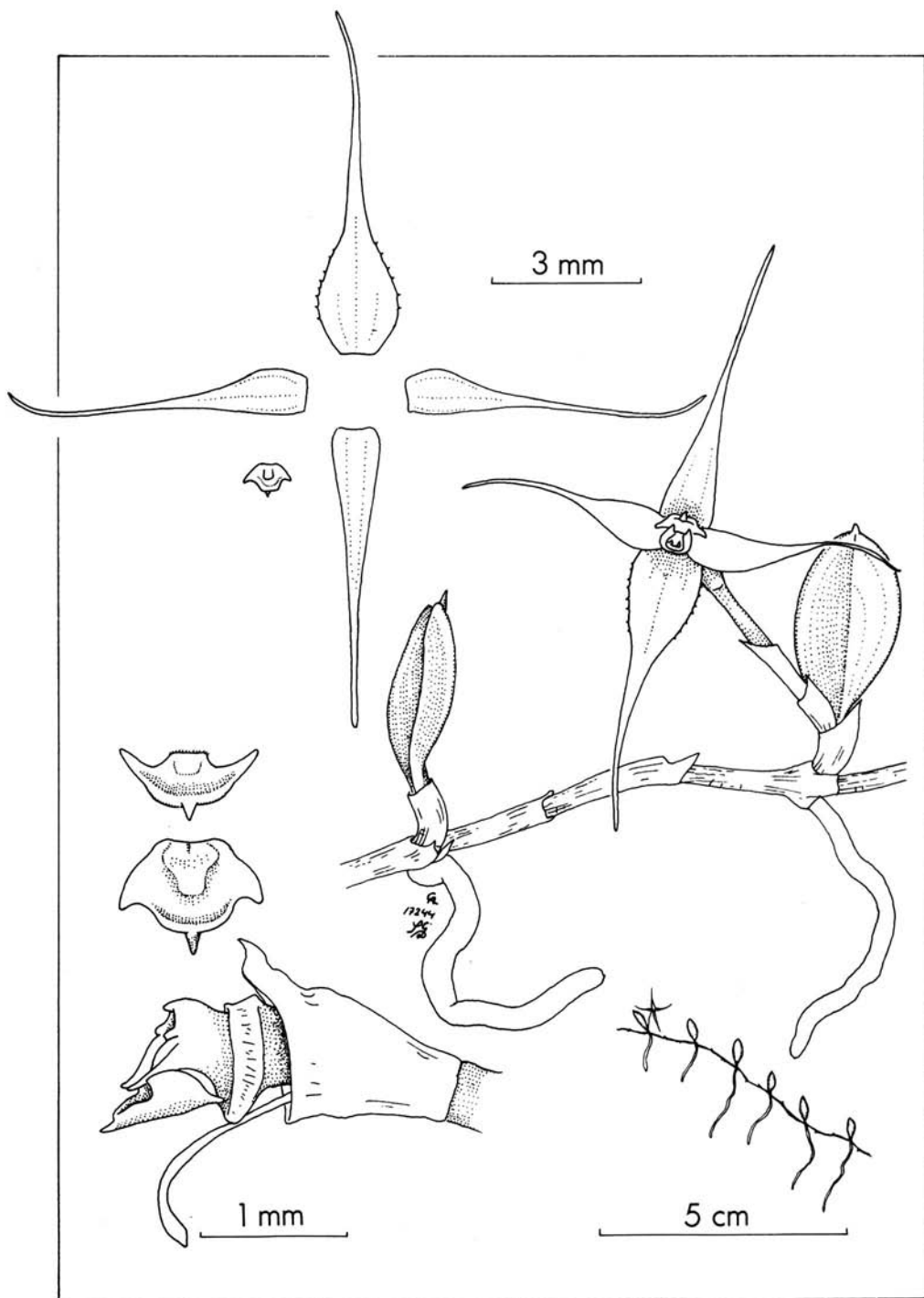


This tiny, long-repent species is known only from one collection by Dressler. Vegetatively it appears similar to *B. pusillum*, except that the leaves are considerably smaller. The flowers of the two species are very similar in size and shape. The flower of the one specimen of *B. minusculum* is purple, while the flowers of *B. pusillum* are usually yellow. The dorsal sepal of *B. minusculum* is microscopically sparsely ciliate while the synsepal and petals are glabrous; the sepals and petals of *B. pusillum* are shortly ciliate. The lateral angles of the tiny, one-millimeter-wide lip are falcate. The lip of *B. pusillum* is three times wider with large, acute, triangular, lateral lobes.

Brachionidium muscosum Luer & Vásquez, *Phytologia* 55: 177, 1984.

Ety.: From the Latin *muscosus*, "mossy," in reference to the habitat and appearance of the plant.

Plant small, epiphytic in loose moss, long-repent, the rhizome slender, occasionally branching, up to 10 cm long, 2-5 mm long between ramicauls, each enclosed by 3 imbricating sheaths with narrowly mucronate apices; roots comparatively thick, from nodes on the rhizome. Ramicauls suberect, 1.5-2 mm long, enclosed by 2 narrowly mucronate sheaths. **Leaf** suberect, coriaceous, 8-10 mm long including the 1 mm long petiole, the blade elliptical, acute, apiculate, 3-4.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the base cuneate. **Inflorescence** a solitary, non-resupinate, translucent white flower borne by an erect, slender peduncle 12-14 mm long, with a bract below the middle and at the base, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract infundibular, mucronate, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 0.5 mm long, with a filament 2 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** ciliate, the middle sepal ovate, acute, acuminate, long-caudate, 10 mm long including the tail 6.5 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into an ovate, acute, acuminate, long-caudate synsepal, 10.5 mm long including the tail 7.5 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, 2-veined; **petals** minutely fimbriate, ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, long-caudate, 7 mm long including the tail 4 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** thick, transversely cordate, lightly concave, 1.25 mm long, 1.75 mm wide expanded, the lateral angles obtuse to rounded, the apex obtuse, minutely apiculate, the disc with a low, flat, triangular, minutely pubescent callus; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, with 6 pollinia.

Plate 36. *Brachionidium minusculum* Luer & Dressler