

**Brachionidium portillae** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva rhizomate crasso erecto abbreviato, pedunculo gracili foliis ellipticis plus minusve duplongiore, sepalo mediano synsepalo petalisque ovatis eciliatis caudatis, labello transverse cordato cum callo plano minute pubescenti, angulis laterali-bus apiculatis.

Plant small, epiphytic, the rhizome stout, erect, up to 4 cm tall, 3-4 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2-3 loosely fitting, imbricating, acuminate sheaths, rooting from the base. Ramicauls suberect, 2-3 mm long, enclosed by 2 similar sheaths. Leaf suberect, thickly coriaceous, 10-15 mm long including the 2-3 mm long petiole, the blade elliptical, subacute, 5-6 mm wide, the base cuneate. Inflorescence a solitary, non-resupinate, yellow flower borne by an erect, slender peduncle 15-35 mm long, with a bract near the middle and at the base, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acuminate, 3 mm long; pedicel 0.5 mm long, with a filament 5 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals eciliate, the middle sepal elliptical, acute, acuminate, shortly caudate, 13 mm long, 4.25 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into a broadly elliptical, concave synsepal, 13 mm long, 5 mm wide, 4-veined, the apex obtuse, contracted into a tail about as long as the blade; petals eciliate, oblong, oblique, 13 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the acute apex acuminate into a tail about as long as the blade; lip transversely trapeziform from above, transversely cord-

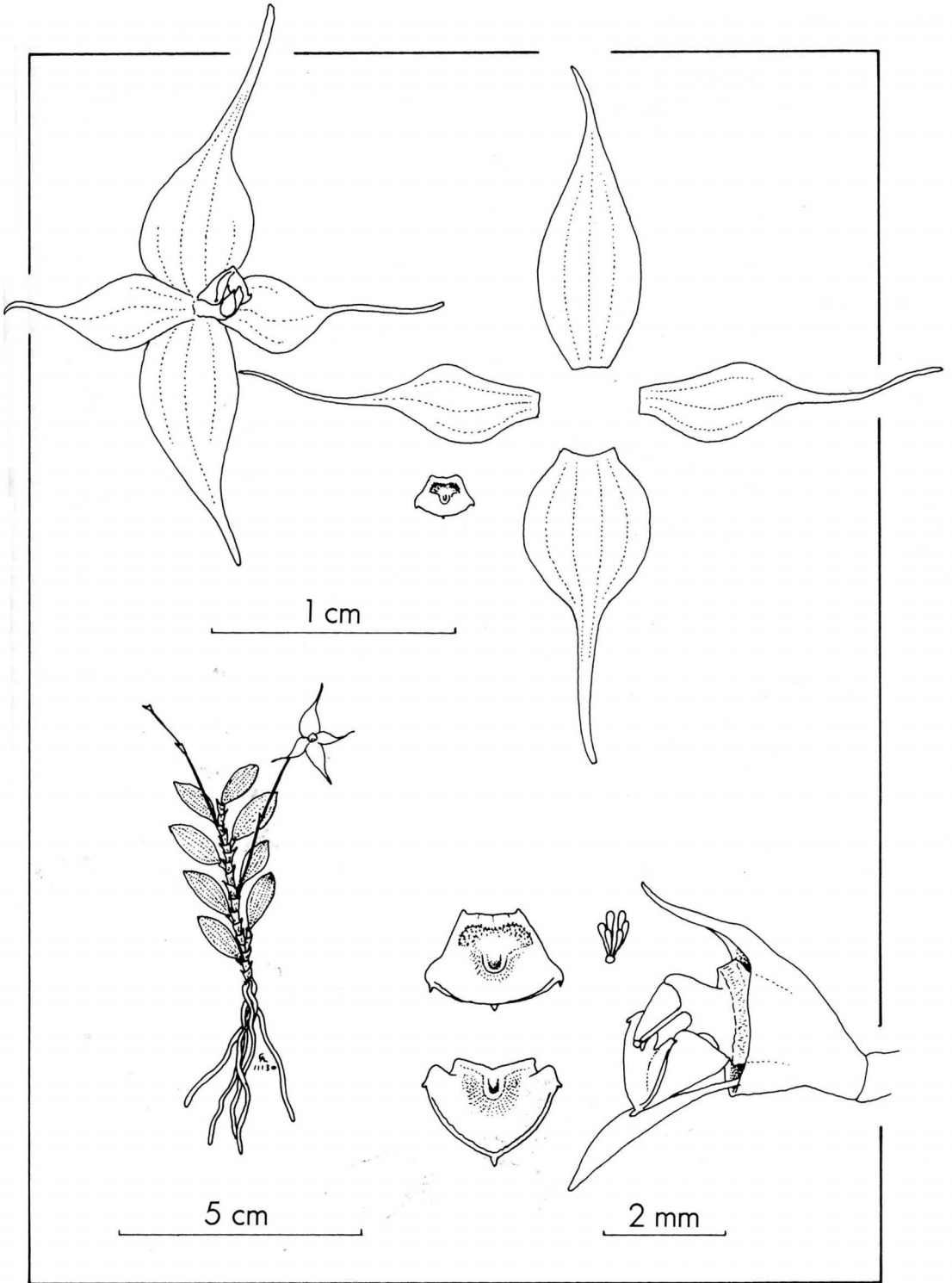
ate from in front, 1.75 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the lateral angles obtuse, each with a minute apiculum, the apex rounded, apiculate, the margins callos, the disc with a flat, minutely pubescent callus with a glenion anteriorly; column 1 mm long, with 6 pollinia.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Mario Portilla, curator of orchids at Hosteria Uzhupud, Paute, Ecuador, who discovered this species.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of Morona-Santiago: collected by Mario Portilla in the Cordillera de Cutucú, flowered in cultivation at the Orquideario of Uzhupud, 8 Apr. 1985, *C. Luer 11130* (Holotype: MO).

Mario Portilla recently discovered this species in a remote part of the Cordillera de Cutucú of southeastern Ecuador, and cultivated it at the Orquideario at Uzhupud near Paute. Fortunately, the single plant produced one flower during our visit. The habit and flower are sufficiently distinct to recognize it as a distinct species. Although ideally more specimens should be seen, the chances of discovering flowering plants, either in the wild or again in cultivation, are very remote, possibly not in our lifetime, or possibly not before the forest is destroyed.

This little species may be recognized by the combination of the following morphological features: a short, stout, erect habit; a long-pedicellate, yellow flower with eciliate, short-tailed sepals and petals; and a thickly cordate lip.



*Brachionidium portillae* Luer