

**Brachionidium rugosum** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris erecta gracilis, pedunculo foliis rugosis verrucosis plus minusve aequilongo, sepalo mediano synsepalo petalisque ovatis eciliatis brevicaudatis, labello transverse ovato-subtrilobato cum callo plano minute pubescenti, angulis lateralibus uncinatis.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, the rhizome slender, ascending to erect, up to 20-30 cm tall, occasionally branching, 5-20 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2-3 acuminate sheaths; roots solitary from nodes. Ramicauls suberect, slender, 3-7 mm long, enclosed by 2 similar sheaths. Leaf suberect, thickly coriaceous, purple beneath, dorsally longitudinally rugose-verrucose along the veins, the rugae less apparent to absent in some leaves, 7-20 mm long including a petiole 1-2 mm long, the blade elliptical, subacute, 4-7 mm wide, the base cuneate. Inflorescence a solitary, non-resupinate flower, translucent green, veined and suffused with brown, borne by a slender, erect peduncle 7-8 mm long, with a bract near the middle and at the base, from the ramicaul below the apex; floral bract inflated, acuminate, 4 mm long; pedicel 0.5 mm long, with a filament 4 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals eciliate, the middle sepal broadly ovate, concave, acute, acuminate, 9 mm long, 5.75 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals completely connate into a triangular, acute lamina 9.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 2-veined; pet-

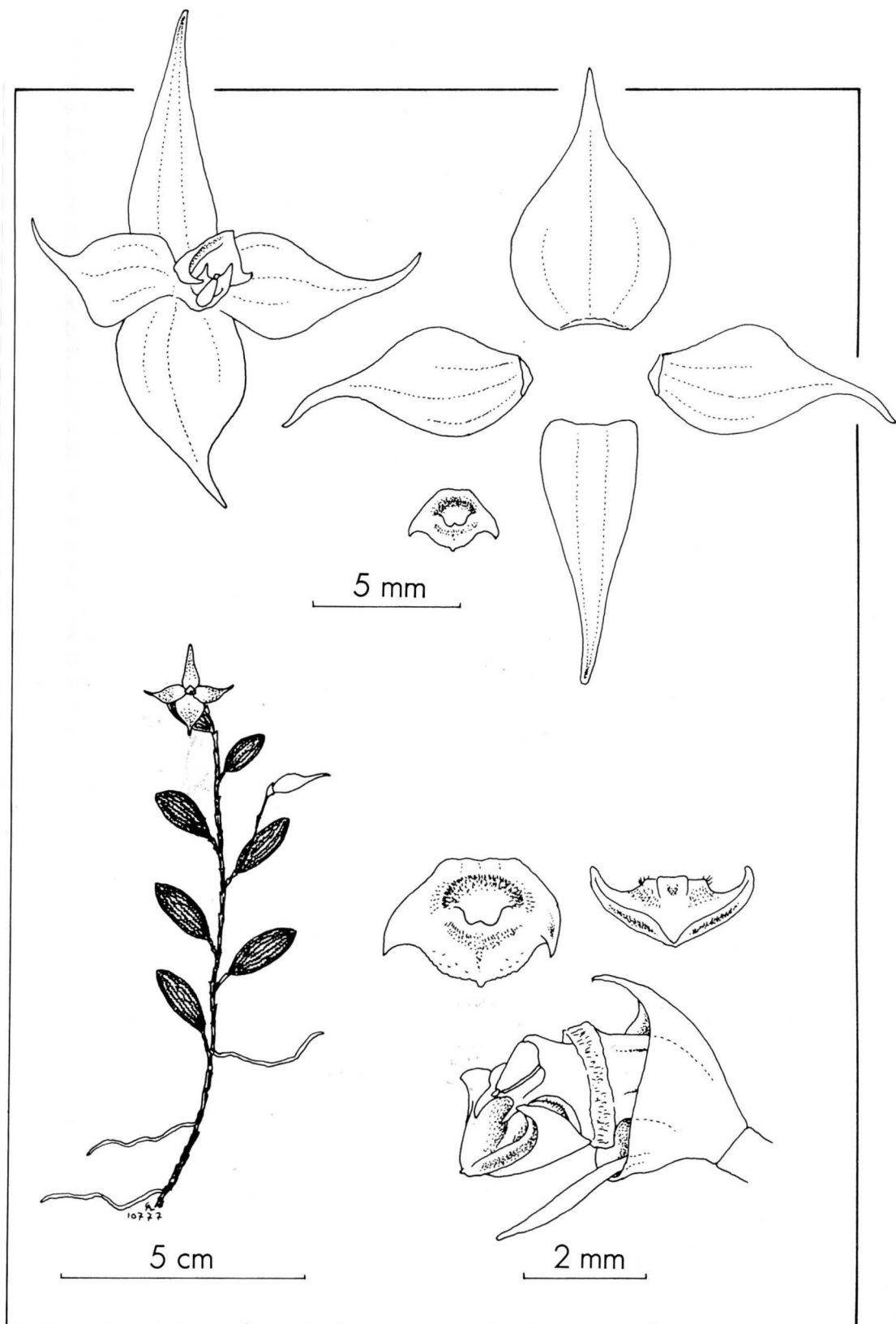
als eciliate, ovate, oblique, 9 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex acute, acuminate into a short tail; lip transversely trapeziform-trilobed, 2 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lateral lobes acute, uncinata, the apex rounded, apiculate, with callous margins, the disc with a flat, shortly pubescent, obscurely bilobed callus; column 1 mm long, bidentate; pollinia 6.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *rugosus*, "with wrinkles," referring to the rugose dorsal surface of most of the leaves.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Prov. of Loja: epiphytic in scrubby vegetation in paramo, east of Yangana, alt. 3,200 m, 22 Mar. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, & W. Flores 10777 (Holotype: MO).

Several plants of this little species were discovered growing in full sun in the uppermost twigs and branches of isolated scrubby trees or bushes in high, cold, rocky terrain of southeastern Ecuador, accompanied by *Lepanthes prionota* Luer & Hirtz and *Trichosalpinx farrago* Luer & Hirtz.

This species, closely related to *B. pteroglossum* Luer, is most remarkable for the rugose-verrucose upper surface of the leaves, a feature which seems to diminish as the leaves increase in age. The leaves are thickly coriaceous, typical for xerophytic plants, distinctly margined with a peripheral vein and suffused with purple beneath. The sepals and petals are eciliate, the petals are shortly tailed, and the lateral lobes of the lip are uncinata.



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