

Brachionidium vasquezii Luer, sp. nov.

Planta mediocris erecta, rhizomate elongato ramificanti, foliis ellipticis cauli longioribus, pedunculo erecto longissimo, flore grandi, sepalo mediano synsepaloque similibus late ovatis obtuse acuminatis brevicaudatis, petalis late ovatis obtuse acuminatis minute ciliatis, labello transverse ovato-oblongo apiculato, disco cum callo ovoideo.

Plant medium in size, terrestrial in moss, the rhizome erect, elongate, branching, 5-20 mm long between secondary stems, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths, frequently shed; roots coarse, descending from nodes. Secondary stems ascending, 10-17 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular sheaths. Leaf coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 15-25 mm long including the 1-3 mm long petiole, 5-8 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a solitary, non-resupinate flower borne by an erect, slender peduncle 5-10 cm long, with a bract below the middle; floral bract infundibular, 5 mm long; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament 5 mm long; ovary stout, 2.5 mm long; sepals and petals translucent rose, veined in purple, the middle sepal broadly ovate, the apex obtusely acuminate into a short tail ca. 2 mm long, 3-veined, 15 mm long, 9 mm wide, the lateral sepals totally connate into a synsepal similar to the dorsal sepal, 4-veined, 13 mm long, 9 mm wide; petals broadly ovate, the margins minutely ciliate, the apex obtusely acuminate into a short tail ca. 3 mm long, 13 mm long, 7 mm wide; lip purple, transversely ovate-oblong, concave, 2.5 mm long, 5 mm wide, 6 mm wide expanded, the rounded apex shortly apiculate, the basal angles obtuse, erect, the broad base delicately hinged to the column-foot, the disc with an ovoid, rounded callus, shallowly concave anteriorly; column stout, 1.5 mm long, pollinia 8.

**Etymology:** Named in honor of Sr. Roberto Vásquez Ch., illustrious investigator of the Orchidaceae of Bolivia, illustrator and co-author of the Orchids of Bolivia, who discovered this species.

**Type:** Bolivia: Dept. of Cochabamba: Prov. of Chapare: Balconcillo, terrestrial in moss along the trail embankment, alt. 3250 m, 7 Dec. 1980, R. Vásquez 477 (Holotype: SEL; Isotype: Herb. Vásquezianum); same area, 16 Jan. 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 5627 (SEL); same area, 17 Jan. 1984, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 9356 (SEL).

Plants of this little species grow erect in fully exposed, deep, loose moss at the base of a dripping wet embankment at a high altitude where frosts are frequent during July and August. The erect, long, slender peduncle rises far above the highest leaf to bear the proportionately large, purple-striped flowers.