

***Barbosella vasquezii* Luer, sp. nov.**

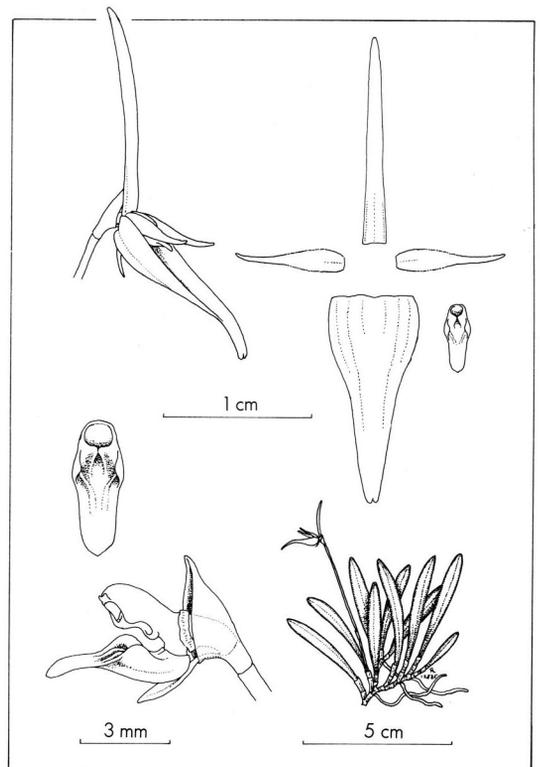
Ety.: Named in honor of Roberto Vásquez Ch. of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, co-discoverer of this species, and authority on Bolivian orchids.

Species haec *Barbosellae prorepentis* (Rchb.f.) Schltr. affinis, sed habitu majore et labello majore infra medium bilamellato distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose, to shortly repent; roots slender. Ramicauls ascending to erect, 5-7 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, fleshy, thickly coriaceous, semiterete, linear to narrowly elliptical-obovate, subacute, 2.5-4.5 cm long, 3-4 mm wide, gradually narrowed below into the subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower, produced singly; peduncle slender, erect, 3-5 cm long; floral bract thin, tubular, 3-4 mm long, enclosing the pedicel; pedicel stout, 1-2.5 mm long, with a filament 2-3 mm long; ovary smooth, 1.5-2.5 mm long; **sepals** membranous, yellow to green, the dorsal sepal free, erect, narrowly linear or linear-ovate, narrowly obtuse, 12-14 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, 3-veined, thickened above the middle, the lateral sepals connate to the apex into an ovate lamina, concave at the base, minutely bifid at the narrowly obtuse apex, 11-14 mm long, 6-6.5 mm wide, 6-veined together; **petals** colored as the sepals, narrowly ovate, acute, the margins usually cellular erose or microscopically denticulate, 7-7.5 mm long, 1.5-1.75 mm wide, thickened above the middle; **lip** yellow or green, suffused with purple centrally, thick, ovoid-oblong with thin, rounded, erect margins below the middle, 4.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex obtuse, the disc with a pair of distinct lamellae converging from within the erect sides below the middle to above the middle, with a shallow, ovate depression between them below the middle, the rounded base deeply concave with the anterior margin cleft, articulated with the bulbous apex of the column-foot; **column** greenish white, stout, winged above the middle, 2.5 mm long, the apex cucullate, bidentate, the foot thick with the apex of the ovary, the apex free, bulbous.

BOLIVIA: **Cochabamba**: Chapare, between Cochabamba and Villa Tunari, alt. 1900 m, 15 Jan. 1988, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez, A. Vogel, T. & D. Mulder 12835 (Holotype: MO); same area, Dec. 1978, collected by C. Luer, J. Luer, F. Fuchs et al., flowered in cultivation 26 Dec. 1979, C. Luer 4843 (SEL).

This species is closely related to the far-flung *B. prorepens*-complex. It is known from the Andes of Peru and Bolivia, as if an austral extension of the distribution of *B. prorepens*. *Barbosella vasquezii* is distinguished by the usually larger habit, but smaller plants are indistinguishable vegetatively from those of *B. prorepens*. The flowers also are extremely similar, but the larger lip of *B. vasquezii* is readily distinguished by a pair of thin lamellae converging from thin, rounded, erect margins below the middle.

Fig. 24. *Barbosella vasquezii*