

**Brachionidium calypso** Luer, sp. nov.

Etymology: Named for Calypso, nymph of Greek mythology, who dwelled on a distant, inaccessible island.

*Planta grandis suberecta rhizomate crasso vaginis glabris, foliis ellipticis 7-nervatis, flore atropurpureo, sepallo mediano synsepaloque anguste ovatis longiattenuatis longicaudatis, petalis late ovatis obliquis similibus, labello transverse cordato, lobis laterilibus erectis late semi-orbicularibus columnam amplexentibus, lobo mediano late obtuso decurvo, callo suborbiculari pubescenti.*

**Plant** large, epiphytic or terrestrial in loose moss, erect to suberect, up to 20 cm tall, the rhizome relatively stout, occasionally branching, 1-2.5 cm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2-3 tubular, mucronate sheaths; roots coarse from nodes and near the base. Ramicauls stout, suberect, 5-6 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular, mucronate sheaths. **Leaf** erect or suberect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute to subacute, 15-30 mm long including a petiole 2-3 mm long, 7-15 mm wide, 7-veined. **Inflorescence** a solitary, non-resupinate flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 15-20 mm long, with a bract near the middle, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acute, mucronate, 4 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and part of the ovary; pedicel 1 mm long, with a filament 5 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** dark wine purple, minutely ciliate, the middle sepal narrowly ovate, acute, long-attenuate, 45 mm long, the blade ca. 14 mm long, 5 mm wide, 3-veined, the tail filiform, ca. 30 mm long, the lateral sepals connate into a narrowly ovate, acute, long-attenuate synsepal, 45 mm long, the blade ca. 15 mm long, 6 mm wide, 4-veined, the tail filiform, ca. 30 mm long, the tips free for 23 mm; **petals** deep wine red, acutely reflexed, minutely ciliate, ovate, oblique, acute, acuminate, the blade 10 mm long, 6 mm wide, 3-veined, the tail 20 mm long; **lip** purple, transversely cordate, 4 mm long, 5 mm wide expanded, sides erect, broadly semi-orbicular with the basal angles narrowly obtuse, incurved, embracing the column, the middle lobe broadly obtuse, acutely decurved, the disc with a rounded, pubescent callus; **column** stout, 1 mm long; pollinia 6.

PANAMA: Prov. of Chiriquí: La Chumblada above Guadalupe, 15 July 1979, *R. L. Dressler 5838* (Holotype: MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 14561; trail along continental divide, northeast of Boquete, above Palo Alto, alt. 7000 ft., 23 May 1979, *B. Hammel 7381* (MO).

This species is apparently endemic in western Panama. It is characterized by the large, more or less erect habit; elliptical leaves; dark purple flowers; narrowly ovate, attenuate, long-caudate, minutely ciliate sepals; and a comparatively large, unique, cordate lip with erect, rounded sides and a decurved apex.

Vegetatively *B. calypso* is similar to three other sympatric species of the genus: *B. dressleri*, *B. lucanoideum* and *B. satyrium*. All three species have large, deep wine red flowers of a basic similarity, but the lip of each is distinct. They inhabit the cool, wet crests of the continental divide of Panama, and they are usually found growing terrestrially in deep mossy humus.



