

**Brachionidium cruzae** L. Wms., sp. nov.

Planta parva, epiphytica; folia elliptica, bi- vel triapiculata; inflorescentia uniflora; sepalum dorsale obovatum, breviter caudato-acuminatum, 3-nerviis; sepala lateralibus in laminam obovatam connata, caudato-acuminata, 5-nerviis; petala oblongo-oblancoolata, acuminata; labellum multo minus, transverse subquadratum, trilobatum.

Small creeping epiphytic plants, the rhizome slender, apparently unbranched, 10 cm long or perhaps longer, closely covered with scarious, infundibuliform, apiculate, sheathing bracts which persist for some time; stems lateral on the rhizomes, terete, unifoliate, covered with bracts like those of the rhizome, 4-5 mm long; leaves one from each stem, elliptic, bi- or triapiculate at the apex, 15-20 mm long and 4- mm broad; inflorescence subterminal on the stem, solitary; peduncle filiform, terete, with a scarious, infundibuliform, apiculate bract above the middle and another subtending the single flower, usually with a short ligule (3-4 mm long) from the base of the flower; flowers solitary, greenish yellow; perianth parts all obscurely serrulate and ocellate; dorsal sepal oval or obovate, short caudate-acuminate, obscurely 3-nerved, about 10 mm long and 4.5 mm broad; lateral sepals connate into one, oval or broadly ovate, short caudate-acuminate, 5-nerved, about 12 mm long and 6 mm broad; petals essentially oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, subauriculate near the base on the lower side and near the middle on the upper side; labellum very small, transversely subquadrate, trilobate with the mid-lobe retuse and the laterals somewhat falcate, with a small, transverse, furfuraceous callus plate near the base of the lamina, about 1.5 mm long and 2.5 mm broad when spread; ovary about 5 mm long in flower, in fruit about 10 mm long.

COSTA RICA: Prov. San José: Next to Pan American highway between km 18 and 20 from El Empalme to Villa Mills, alt. 2700 meters; flowers greenish yellow; epiphyte in shady forest near sphagnum bog, 18 July 1960, *Marcela Cruz 88* (type in Chicago Natural History Museum).

The genus *Brachionidium* in North America, where the species are all Costa Rican, is a small group of three species and perhaps fewer than a dozen collections of it exist. *Brachionidium perpusilla* Ames has very small leaves and sepals to about 6 mm long, while on the present species both are at least twice as large; in *B. valerioi* Ames the perianth parts including the long caudate apices are to about 25 mm long, almost twice as long as those in the present species.

It is a pleasure to name this little orchid for its collector, Miss **Marcela Cruz**, who has recently made a very fine collection of plants in the Cordillera de Talamanca.



FIG. 1. *Brachionidium cruzae*. Habit,  $\times 2.4$ ; lateral view of enlarged flower,  $\times 4.8$ ; dissection of sepals, petal and lip,  $\times 3$ ; enlargement of lip,  $\times 30$ .