

**Brachionidium peltarion** Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *peltarion*, "a little shield," referring to the shape of the lip.

*Planta parva, rhizomate suberecto, foliis ellipticis quinque-nervatis, flore parvo luteo, sepalo medio synsepaloque eciliatis brevicaudatis, petalis eciliatis late ovatis obliquis brevicaudatis, labello late ovato supra medium peltato obtuso infra medium acute deflexo marginibus integris callo subnullo.*

Plant small, epiphytic, suberect to erect, up to 6 cm tall, the rhizomes stout, occasionally branching, 3-4 mm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 2-3 imbricating, mucronate sheaths; roots slender from nodes near the base. Ramicauls suberect, 5-6 mm long, enclosed by 2 mucronate sheaths. Leaf erect to suberect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, apiculate, 12-15 mm long including the petiole 1-2 mm long, 5-7 mm wide, 5-veined, cuneate below into the petiole. Inflorescence a solitary, yellow-green, resupinate flower borne by an erect, slender peduncle 16-22 mm long, with a bract near the middle; floral bract long-mucronate, 3 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and part of the ovary; pedicel 0.5 mm long, with a protruding filament 4 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; sepals eciliate, the middle sepal obovate, 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the apex abruptly acuminate with a tail 1 mm long, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acute, concave synsepal, 6 mm long including a tail 1 mm long, 3 mm wide expanded, 2-veined; petals ovate, oblique, obtuse, acuminate, eciliate, 5 mm long including a tail 1 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined; lip transversely subcordate, 1.5 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, with narrowly obtuse lateral angles, the apex rounded, obtusely apiculate, acutely deflexed near the middle, slightly convex above the middle, minimally thickened near the middle, microscopically cellular pubescent below the middle, the base broadly hinged to the column-foot; column stout, 0.5 mm long, 1 mm broad; pollinia 6.

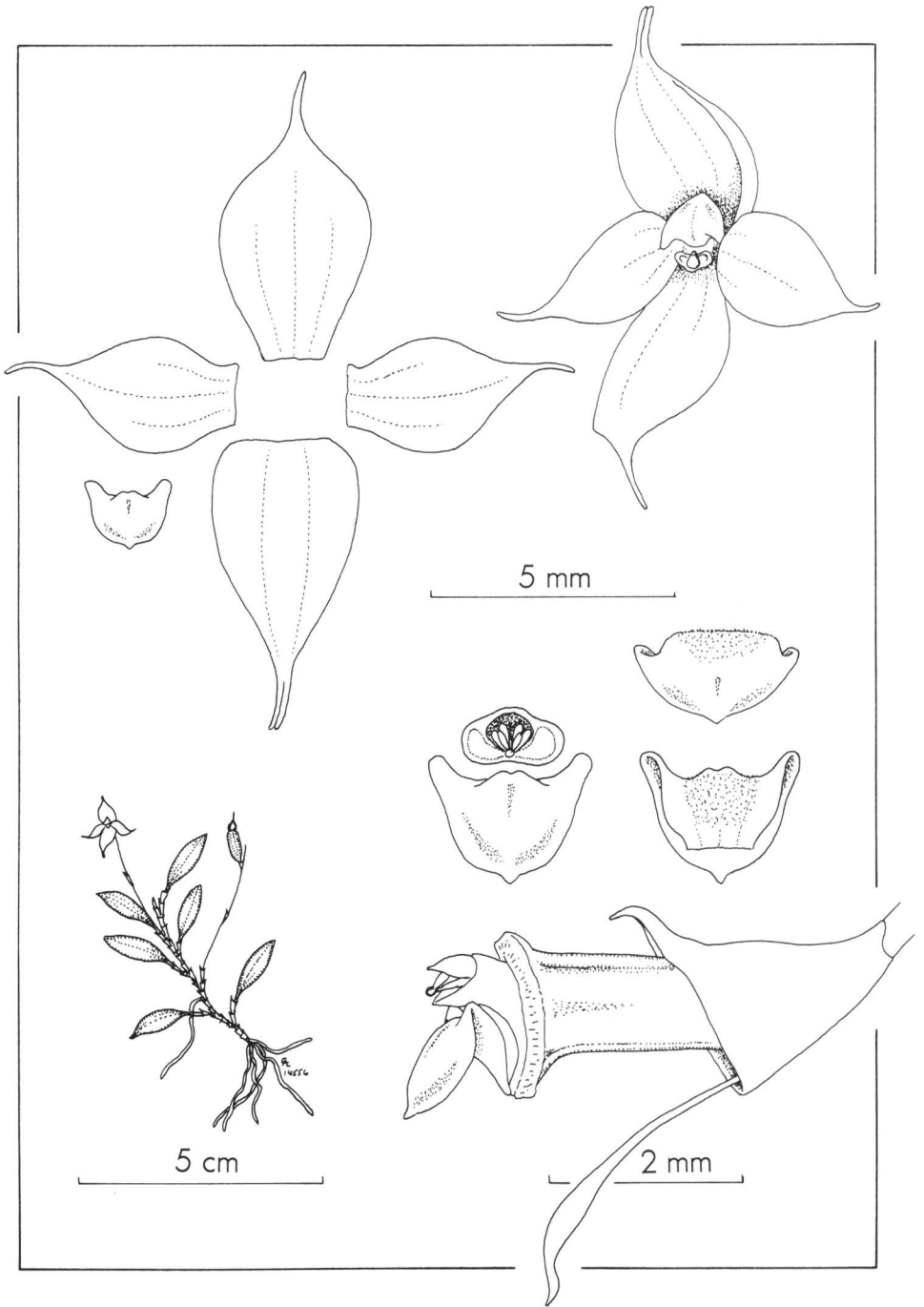


Plate 41. *Brachionidium peltarion* Luer

PANAMA: Prov. Coclé: Cerro Gaital, mesa north of El Valle de Antón, near western peak, alt. ca. 900 m, 14 Mar. 1981, *R. L. Dressler & E. Hagsater 6005* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 14556.

This little species is known only from a single collection by Dressler in the mountains of central Panama. It is characterized by the small, suberect habit; a small, yellow-green flower; tails of eciliate sepals and petals only 1 mm long; and an acutely deflexed, shield-shaped, obtuse lip that is essentially without a callus. The deflexed, basal portion of the lip is microscopically pubescent, reminiscent of the more coarse pubescence on the deflexed portion of the lip of *B. longicaudatum*.

