

Brachionidium puraceense Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for the Páramo de Puracé in southern Colombia where this species was discovered.

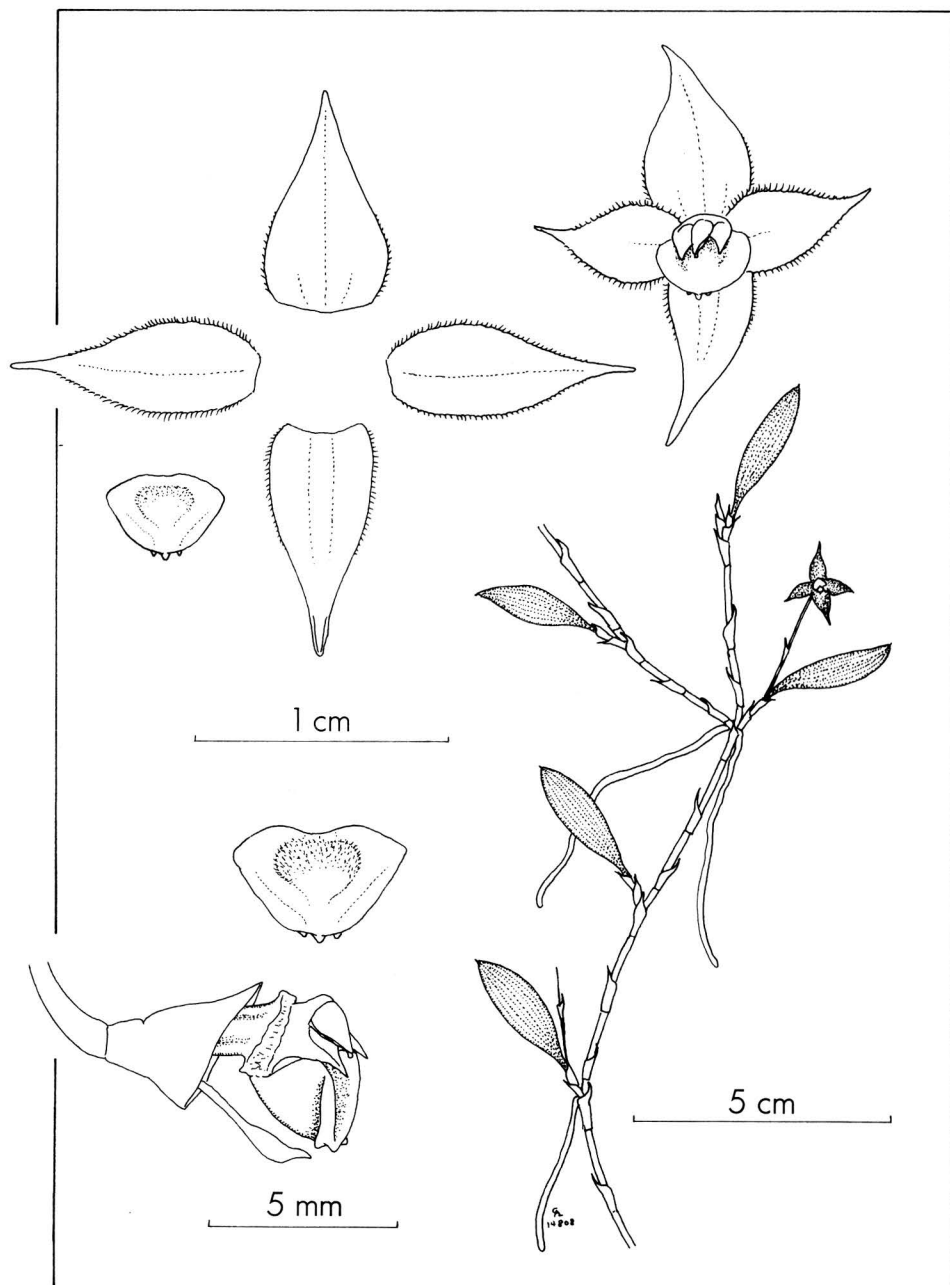
Planta mediocris longirepens vaginis glabris mucronatis semotis, foliis ellipticis acutis 7-nervatis, flore rubro ecaudato, sepalo synsepaloque ciliatis late ovatis acutis leviter acuminatis, petalis ciliatis ovatis acutis acuminatis, labello transverse ovoideo marginibus laticarinatis, angulis lateribus obtusis, apice late obtuso triapiculato, callo magno pubescenti.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, long-repent, 20-40 cm long, the rhizome relatively slender, occasionally branching, 3-4 cm long between ramicauls, enclosed by 3 distant, tubular, mucronate sheaths; roots fleshy, from nodes on the rhizome. Ramicauls suberect, 5-8 mm long, enclosed by 2 tubular, mucronate sheaths. **Leaf** erect or suberect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, apiculate, 2-3 cm long including a petiole 2-4 mm long, 6-9 mm wide, 7-veined, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a solitary, non-resupinate, fire-red flower borne by a slender, erect peduncle 17-20 mm long, with a bract near the middle, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract inflated, acute, 4 mm long, enclosing the pedicel and part of the ovary; pedicel 1.5 mm long, with a filament 5 mm long; ovary 3 mm long; **sepals** ciliate below the middle, the middle sepal ovate, concave, acute, lightly acuminate, 9 mm long, 5 mm wide, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acute, lightly acuminate synsepal, 9 mm long, 4 mm wide, 2-veined; **petals** conspicuously ciliate, ovate, acute, acuminate, 9 mm long, 4 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** transversely ovate, 3 mm long, 4.5 mm wide expanded, the marginal angles obtuse, the margins longitudinally and prominently carinate, the apex broadly rounded, shortly triapiculate, the disc with a comparatively large, pubescent callus above the base; **column** stout, 1 mm long, pollinia 8.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Valle del Cauca: Parque Nacional Natural de Puracé, around Laguna de la San Rafael, alt. 3300 m, 6 Oct. 1984, G. Lozano, O. Rangel, L. F. de Turbay, A. Sanabria & N. Espejo 4697 (Holotype: COL), C. Luer illustr. 14808.

This species is apparently endemic in the Páramo de Puracé of southern Colombia where it was discovered by G. Lozano and companions. It is most closely related to Ecuadorian *B. ecuadorensis*. Both species are long-creeping with tailless flowers, but *B. puraceense* is distinguished by the prominently ciliate petals and a proportionately large, transverse lip with protruding, marginal carinae ending in a rounded but triapiculate apex.



Plate 47. *Brachionidium puraceense* Luer