

**Barbosella circinata** Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica repens, rhizomate crasso ramificanti, caulibus secundariis abbreviatis unifoliatis, foliis crassis suberectis anguste ellipticis acutis apiculatis subpetiolatis, flore solitario pallido flavo inverso, penunculo filiformi folia duplosuperanti, ovario trialato circinato, medisepalo lineari aciculari, synsepalo cucullato acuminato bidentato, petalis sublinearis parallelis, labello oblongo obtuso base concavo disco bicarinato.

Plant small, epiphytic, repent, the rhizome stout, branching, producing a root at nodes and a secondary stem every 2-7 mm; roots slender, flexuous. Secondary stems abbreviated, terete, 3-7 mm long, unifoliate, with 1-2 thin, fugacious sheaths, leaf suberect, thick, coriaceous, the surface minutely undulate, narrowly elliptical, acute, tridentate, the base narrowly cuneate, subpetiolate, 2-3 cm long, 4-5 mm wide. Inflorescence a solitary, inverted, pale yellow flower, slightly suffused with brown, borne at the apex of a filiform peduncle, 5-7 cm long, from a node on the secondary stem; floral bract oblique, acute, 4 mm long; pedicel 4 mm long, with a filament equally long, ovary circinate, trialate, 3 mm long; middle sepal linear-triangular, acute, thickened above the middle, 3-veined below the middle, 13 mm long, 1.5 mm wide; lateral sepals connate into a deeply concave, uppermost synsepal, cucullate, acuminate, bidentate, 13 mm long, 5 mm wide, 8 mm across spread out; petals parallel, linear-elliptical, acute, microscopically crenulate, 5 mm long, 0.9 mm wide; lip oblong, broadly obtuse to subtruncate, the base deeply concave, the disc with a pair of narrow, longitudinal calli, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide; column cucullate-winged, 3.5 mm long with a 1 mm bulbous foot.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *circinatus*, "coiled around at the apex," in reference to the 360° loop formed by the pedicel and ovary.

TYPE: PANAMA: CHIRIQUI: epiphytic in the cloud forest along the continental divide, above Camp Escopeta, Cerro Colorado, alt. 1700 m, 16 Feb. 1977, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. L. Dressler 1575 (HOLOTYPE: SEL), greenhouse acc. no. 77-1794, flowered in cult. 30 March 1977.

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

This species is unique in the genus *Barbosella* in bearing its solitary flower doubly resupinate. Lifted by a very slender peduncle above the dense mat of leaves formed by the multibranching rhizomes, the bud develops at the apex. The bud slowly bends backward as the pedicel and ovary coil through a complete rotation to place the deeply cucullate, united lateral sepals into the uppermost position. At anthesis the needle-like middle sepal folds downward to expose the parallel petals embracing the column, and the erect lip deeper within the hood.

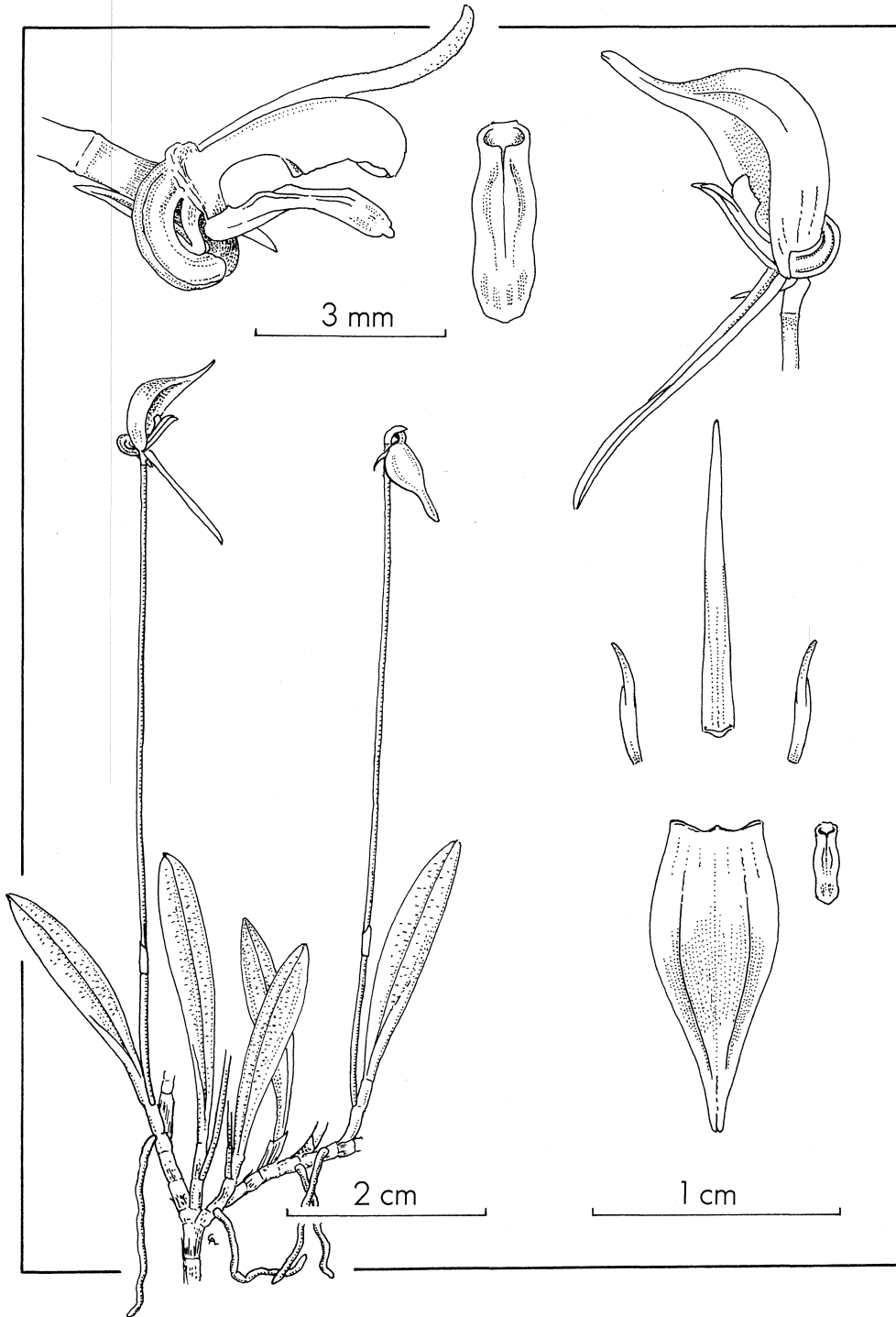


Figure 203. BARBOSELLA CIRCINATA Luer