

Porroglossum tripollex Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *tri-pollex*, "with three thumbs," referring to the sepaline tails.

Inter species generis *Porroglossa* Schltr. planta parva, folio elliptico petiolato, ovario nontorto, sepalis albis, sepalis supra medium late tubulosis, petalis subclavatis supra basim acute angulatis, labelli lamina cuneata cum callo humili notabilis.

Plant small, presumably epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls black, erect, slender, 9-11 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 deciduous, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, dark green, lightly verrucose on the dorsum, long-petiolate, 4.5-5.5 cm long including the petiole 1.5-2.5 cm long, the blade elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 0.9-1 cm wide, cuneate below into the blackish petiole. **Inflorescence** a successively few-flowered raceme, borne by a slender, glabrous peduncle 3.5 cm long, with a bract below the middle, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts tubular, 4-5 mm long; pedicel 4 mm long; ovary not twisted, 3 mm long; **sepals** white, lightly suffused with purple at the base, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave below the middle, 14 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 2 mm to form a rounded cup, the apex thickly tubular with revolute margins, 3 mm wide, rounded at the tip, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 13 mm long, 5 mm wide, connate 4 mm, the apices narrowed into tubular tails similar to that of the dorsal sepal; **petals** white, oblong-ovate, 4.5 mm long, 1-2 mm wide, narrowed below the slightly dilated, rounded apex, the lower margin acutely angled below the middle; **lip** with the blade cuneate-obovate, slightly concave, 4 mm long, 3.75 mm wide, thickened toward the base with a low callus, the apex transverse, truncate, microscopically ciliate, shortly obtusely apiculate with a shallow, midline sulcus, the base deflexed into a short, straplike claw 2 mm long, bent with tension about the free apex of the column-foot; **column** stout, semiterete, 1.5 mm long, with a slender, curved foot 4 mm long, the stigma without processes.

ECUADOR: Without collection data, obtained from José Portilla, Oct. 1998, in San Francisco, California, by *Walter Teague 271* (Holotype: MO); without collection data, cultivated by in Stockholm, Sweden, Apr. 1997, *S. Dalström 2278* (MO), C. Luer illustr. 18429.

A flower of this species was first illustrated from a plant cultivated in Sweden, but the plant was lost. The species was next seen from Walter Teague who had obtained the plant from José Portilla without collection data. The non-rotated flowers are easily recognized by the three, thick, "thumb-like" tails of the sepals. The petals are sharply angled on the lower margin below the middle, and the apex is subclavate. The blade of the lip is cuneate with rounded corners.

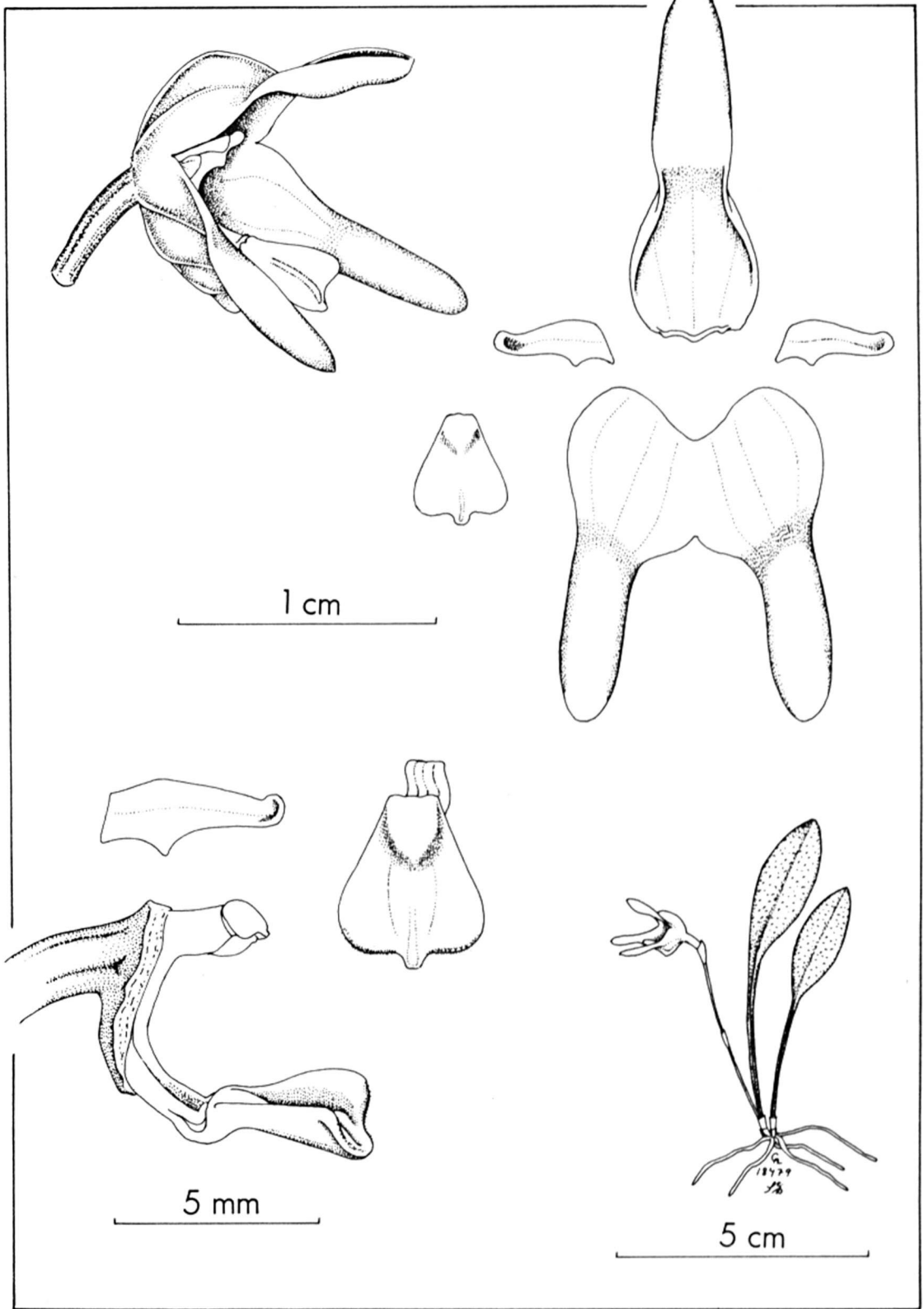


Fig. 8. *Porroglossum tripollex*