

Trichosalpinx dependens (Luer) Luer, *Phytologia* 54: 395, 1983.

Fig. 7,8.

Bas.: *Pleurothallis dependens* Luer, *Selbyana* 3: 94, 1976.Ety.: From the Latin *dependens*, "hanging down," in reference to the habit.Syn.: *Pleurothallis flexibilis* Luer & Vásquez, *Phytologia* 49: 205, 1981.Ety.: From the Latin *flexibilis*, "flexible," in reference to the weak, flexible ramicauls.Syn.: *Trichosalpinx flexibilis* (Luer & Vásquez) Luer, *Phytologia* 54: 395, 1983.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose, more or less pendent to suberect; roots slender. Ramicauls ascending to pendent, slender, more or less flexuous, 3-15 cm long, enclosed by 5-13 lepanthiform sheaths with long, oblique, dilated, ciliate ostia. **Leaf** suberect or pendent, coriaceous, elliptical to narrowly elliptical, acute, 3-9 cm long, 1-2.7 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 1-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, simultaneously few- to several-flowered raceme, 1-3 cm long, including the filiform peduncle 0.5-2 cm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 1-2 mm long; pedicels 1-2 mm long; ovary 0.5-1.75 mm long; **sepals** red-brown to purple, ciliate, fleshy, especially toward the apices, the dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, 2.25-5 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate to about the middle into an ovate, obtuse, concave synsepal, 2.25-5 mm long, 2-4 mm wide expanded, 4-veined, forming a mentum with the column-foot; **petals** translucent, ciliate-denticulate, elliptical-oblong, subacute or obtuse, 1-2 mm long, 0.5-1 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** dark brown or purple, ciliate to long-ciliate to long-ciliate, oblong to obovate or pyriform, 1.5-2 mm long, 0.5-0.8 mm wide, with the apex rounded, the sides thin, slightly incurved below the middle, the disc with a low, rounded callus above the base, the base with a pair of comparatively large, diverging lobules, delicately hinged between to the column-foot; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, with broad, angled wings above the middle, bidentate at the apex, the anther and the stigma ventral, the foot thick, 0.5 mm long.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Tungurahua: epiphytic on lower slopes of Volcán Tungurahua, alt. ca. 2000 m, flowered in cultivation in Puyo by J. Brenner 22 (Holotype: SEL), C. Luer illustr. 250. Prov. of Sucumbíos: between La Bonita and Rosa Florida, alt. 1400 m, S. Dalström, S. Ingram & K. Ferrell-Ingram 2144 (MO). Prov. of Morona-Santiago: north of Gualaquiza, July 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & S. Wilhelm 611 (SEL); same area, alt. 1500 m, 27 Mar. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & W. Flores 10975 (MO); same area, alt. 1600 m, 17 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13419 (MO); new road west of Macas to Guamate, alt. 1900 m, 16 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup, A. Hirtz & S. Ortega 13939 (MO); epiphytic in wet forest 3 km north of Macas, alt. 1050 m, 15 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup, A. Hirtz & S. Ortega 13899, 13907 (MO); Cordillera del Cutucú, between Mendez and Morona, alt. 950 m, 17 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup, A. Hirtz & S. Ortega 13970, 14001 (MO). Prov. of Napo: south of Tena, July 1975, flowered in cultivation at SEL, 1976, C. Luer, G. Luer & S. Wilhelm 1278 (SEL); Reventador, alt. 1600 m, 5 Oct. 1984, A. Hirtz & A. Andreetta 1977 (MO); epiphytic in wet forest around the Bermejo oil fields north of Lumbaqui, alt. 850 m, 6 Feb. 1986, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores & A. Embree 11729 (MO); Hollin Loreto, alt. 1000 m, Nov. 1988, A. Hirtz 3926 (MO); northeast of El Chaco, alt. 1900 m, 15 Feb. 1990, S. Dalström & L. Årnby 1343 (MO); between Archidona and Coca, alt. 1000 m, 17 Feb. 1990, S. Dalström & L. Årnby 1357 (MO). Prov. of Loja: between Carimanga and Amaluza, alt. 2500 m, 20 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höjjer & J. Kuijt 9630 (MO). Prov. of Zamora-Chinchipec: Cordillera del Condor, east of Mayaicu, alt. 1300 m, 20 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13499 (MO); new road east of Paquisha, alt. 1200 m, 23 Jan. 1992, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup & A. Hirtz 16123 (MO); west of Zumba, alt. 1800 m, 25 Jan. 1989, S. Dalström & T. Höjjer 1196 (MO). PERU: Dept. of Huancabamba: "Incerta de Portmana," Jan. 1883, E. André 508 (K). Dept. of Amazonas: near Pedro Ruiz, alt. 1200 m, flowered in München by W. Königer, 30 Aug. 1984, C. Luer 10430 (MO). Dept. of Cuzco: Urubamba, Machu Picchu, among rocks, alt. 2040 m, 16 May 1943, C. Vargas 3406 (AMES), identified in *Orchids of Peru* as *P. ciliaris*; Quispicanchis, San Pedro-Murayaca Mascapata, alt. 1200-1800 m, 14 July 1945, C. Vargas 5207 (AMES). Dept. of Junín: Tarma, Caserío Santa Rosa near Tarma, alt. 1800 m, 26 Dec. 1992, D. Bennett 5927 (MO). BOLIVIA: Dept. of Cochabamba: Chapare, epiphytic in rain forest along Río Evispas, alt. 500 m, 16 Jan. 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer & R. Vásquez 5639 (holotype of *P. flexibilis*: SEL). Dept. of La Paz: Larecaja: Alto Lipe above Tipuani, collected Aug. 1991, flowered in cultivation in Quito, Ecuador, A. Hirtz 5805 (MO); Nor Yungas, forest northeast of Caranavi, alt. 1550 m, 26 Jan. 1988, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Vásquez, J. Solomon, T. & D. Mulder & A. Vogel 12941 (MO); same area, alt. 1500 m, 31 Aug. 1991, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, R. Vásquez et al. 15393 (MO). COLOMBIA: Dept. Antioquia: Frontino, alt. 1800 m, Oct. 1891, F. C. Lehmann 7055 (AMES, K). Montaña de Mismis, between Anserma and Lupis, alt. 1500-2000 m, July 1891, F. C. Lehmann 7055 (K). Dept. of Cauca: between Popayán, alt. 1600-1800 m, F. C. Lehmann B.T. 167, 246, 248 (AMES, K).

W). Dept. of Norte de Santander: above Sardinata, alt. 1750 m, 7 May 1982, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Escobar & E. Valencia 7767 (SEL).

VENEZUELA: Edo. Mérida: near Quebrada Los González, alt. ca. 1600 m, Oct. 1966, G.C.K. Dunsterville 23

FRENCH GUYANA: Saül, Crique Cochon, 31 Aug. 1986, M. Freiberg 103 (B).

Trichosalpinx dependens, treated as a species-complex, is frequent and variable in its wide distribution through the Andes from the Guyanas through Venezuela and the Andes into central Bolivia. It is common on the eastern slopes of Ecuador, usually growing between 1000 and 2500 meters above sea level. It seems to be the austral counterpart of the Central American complex *T. blaisdellii*.

Most plants of *T. dependens* are pendent with the ramicauls more or less flexuous with conspicuous, elongated apices of distichous, lepanthiform sheaths, similar to those of the pendent *T. berlineri*. Some forms with shorter ramicauls grow more or less erect, especially in drier or more exposed habitats. The leaves vary in size and shape. The racemes are congested, distichous and much shorter than the leaf. Some flowers are very small with sepals barely over two millimeters in length, while others reach five millimeters.

Typically, the lateral sepals are partially connate and connivent into a concave synsepal (Fig. 7.) as seen in *T. memor*, but often the cavity is incomplete with more or less erect lateral sepals (Fig. 8.) that are thicker toward the apices. The petals are small and membranous with ciliate apices. The lip is ciliate and more or less oblong with the apex rounded. A low, rounded callus is at the base, flanked by a comparatively large pair of diverging lobules. The column is winged and bidentate at the apex, not fringed.

A similar, closely allied, sympatric taxon, *T. patula*, differs with more gaping flowers with decurved lateral sepals. It grades into the forms of *T. dependens* with less complete, concave synsepals. Distinction between the two taxa is often uncertain. A typical form of *T. dependens* illustrated in *Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated* as well as in the Field Guide (Dunsterville & Garay, 1979) is identified as *Pleurothallis memor*. A typical form of *T. patula* is identified as the Central American *P. blaisdellii*. An illustration of *P. memor* is identified as the Central American *P. ciliaris*. Most specimens cited from Peru as *P. ciliaris* are referable to either *T. dependens* or *T. memor*.