

Trichosalpinx patula Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 17.

Ety.: From the Latin *patulus*, "open, gaping," in reference to the flowers.

Species haec *T. dependens* affinis, sed sepalis lateralibus decurvis non synsepalum concavum formantibus distinguitur.

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, 5-15 cm long, enclosed by 5-12 lepanthiform sheaths with long, oblique, dilated, ciliate ostia. **Leaf** suberect or pendent, coriaceous, elliptical to narrowly elliptical, acute, 4-10 cm long, 1-2 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 1-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** a congested, distichous, simultaneously few- to several-flowered raceme, 2-4 cm long, including the filiform peduncle 1-2 cm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 2-2.5 mm long; pedicels 2-2.5 mm long; ovary 1.5-2 mm long; **sepals** tan, yellow suffused with purple, or purple, sparsely ciliate, fleshy, especially toward the apices, the dorsal sepal ovate, narrowly obtuse, 4-7 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate to about the middle into an ovate, bifid, recurving lamina with subacute apices, 3.5-5.5 mm long, 2.5-4 mm wide expanded, 4-veined, forming a mentum with the column-foot; **petals** translucent, ciliate-denticulate, elliptical-oblong to triangular, acute or obtuse, 2-3 mm long, 0.75-1.25 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** dark brown or purple, ciliate to long-ciliate, oblong, 2-3 mm long, 1 mm wide, with the apex rounded, the sides thin, slightly incurved below the middle, the disc with a low, obtuse callus above the base, the base with a pair of comparatively large, diverging lobules, delicately hinged between to the column-foot; **column** stout, 1.5-2.5 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 Zamora-Chinchipec: east of the pass east of Loja, alt. 2250 m, 22 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andreetta & W. Teague 13595 (MO); same area, alt. 2300 m, 21 Jan. 1922, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup & A. Hirtz 16088, 16162 (MO). Prov. of Morona-Santiago: north of Gualaquiza, July 1975, C. Luer, G. Luer & S. Wilhelm 611 (SEL). Prov. of Loja: above Vilcabamba, alt. 1650 m, 10 May 1981, C. Luer, J. Luer & D. D' Alessandro 6136 (SEL); VENEZUELA: Edo. Bolívar: base of Cerro Paraucaipa, near Auyantepui, alt. ca. 400 m, Aug. 1970, G.C.K. Dunsterville 1150.

BOLIVIA: Dept. of Santa Cruz: moist forest south of Yapacaní, alt. 650 m, 7 Sept. 1991, C. Luer, J. Luer, L. Moreno & D. Ric 15400 (MO).

This species is a closely allied member of the frequent *T. dependens*-complex, and it occurs wholly within the distribution of the latter. Although vegetatively very similar, most plants of *T. patula* are a little larger with stouter ramicauls and narrower leaves. The average size of the gaping flowers is a little larger. The lateral sepals are similarly connate below the middle, but they are recurved above the middle without forming a concave synsepal, the only distinctive difference. Morphologically similar, the average size of the sepals, petals and lips of *T. patula* is a little larger. Intermediate specimens are frequent. No doubt some collections attributed above to *T. dependens* could be attributed to *T. patula*. Superficially, *T. patula* appears most similar to the Central American *T. blaisdellii*. The most distinct difference lies in the pair of basal labellar lobules. Those of *T. patula* as well as those of *T. dependens* are relatively large and obliquely spreading from the basal angles. Those of *T. blaisdellii* are small, membranous, and directed posteriorly. The column of *T. patula* is winged above the middle and the apex is simply bidentate, not minutely denticulate or fringed as in *T. blaisdellii*. *Trichosalpinx patula* was identified as the *T. blaisdellii* in *Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated*.