

Trichosalpinx tantilla Luer, comb. nov.

Fig. 82.

Bas.: *Pleurothallis tantilla* Luer, Selbyana 5: 183, 1979.Ety.: From the Latin *tantillus*, "so little," referring to the habit.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect to suberect, prolific, commonly only 2 superposed, each 7-20 mm long, enclosed by 2-4 lepanthiform sheaths with ciliate ostia. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, 7-10 mm long, 5-7 mm wide, contracted below into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, simultaneously several-flowered raceme, up to 35 mm long, including the filiform peduncle 5-7 mm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 1 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 0.25 mm long; **sepals** yellow-green, more or less suffused with purple along the veins, glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, concave, acute, 2.5-3.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals free, ovate-triangular, oblique, acute, 2-2.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; **petals** translucent yellow, obovate, oblique, subacute, 1.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** green, suffused with purple, thick, ovoid, obscurely 3-lobed, arcuate, 1.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the lateral lobes broadly rounded, below the middle, the apex thick, convex, cellular-glandular, obtuse, the disc with a pair of low, parallel calli from a shallowly concave base to the callous apex, the base subtruncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** slender, terete, without wings, 1 mm long, with a foot 0.25 mm long, the anther subapical, the stigma ventral.

PANAMA: Prov. of Coclé: epiphytic in cloud forest above El Valle, alt. 1000 m, 6 Mar. 1976, *C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. Dressler 1078* (Holotype: SEL); epiphytic in orange grove above El Valle, alt. 1000 m, 2 Sept. 1976, *C. Luer & H. Butcher 1122* (SEL); La Mesa above El Valle, alt. ca. 900 m, 27 Sept. 1977, *J. P. Folsom 5625* (MO). Without locality, alt. 400-800 m, collected by W. Rauh, flowered in cultivation at Botanischer Garten Heidelberg, 1 Sept. 1987, *C. Luer 12912* (MO).

Superficially, this little Panamanian species is similar to the *T. dura*-complex: small ramicauls proliferating one or two others, and simultaneously several-flowered racemes two to three times as long as the leaf. The tiny yellow-green flowers are suffused with purple along the veins of the sepals and on the lip. The sepals are carinate; the petals are subacute; and the obscurely three-lobed lip is bicarinate with a thickened apex. The slender column is devoid of any wing.

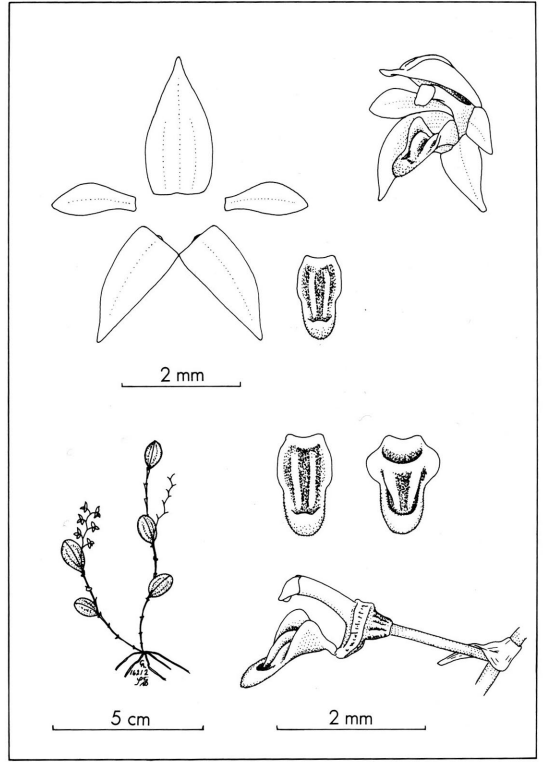


Fig. 82. *Trichosalpinx tantilla*