

**Trichosalpinx teres** Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 85.

Ety.: From the Latin *teres*, "terete," referring to the leaves round in cross-section.

*Planta parva, ramicaulibus prolificantibus, racemo paucifloro foliis teretibus duplolongiore, sepalis crassicarinatis et labello trilobato crasso distinguitur.*

**Plant** small, epiphytic, prolific, erect, roots slender at the base. Ramicauls slender, producing another ramicaul from the apex, 7-9 mm long, enclosed by 2 thin, microscopically ciliate, tubular, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, fusiform-terete, narrowly obtuse, 13-15 mm long, 3 mm wide, 2 mm deep, the base contracted into a petiole less than 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, secund, simultaneously few-flowered raceme ca. 25 mm long including the filiform peduncle ca. 10 mm long, from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, fleshy, thickly carinate, glabrous, the dorsal sepal triangular, acute, thickened toward the apex, 3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined, essentially free from the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals thick, narrowly triangular, acute, 3.75 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 0.5 mm; **petals** membranous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 1.8 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** yellow, oblong-trilobed, 2.25 mm long, 0.6 mm wide across the middle lobe, 1.4 mm wide across the lateral lobes expanded, the apical lobe oblong, thick, with the apex rounded, the lateral lobes erect, oblique, obtuse, triangular, antrorse, below the middle, with a small callus at the forward angle with the middle lobe, the base truncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** bialate above the middle, 1.5 mm long, the foot 0.5 mm long, the anther and the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Zamora-Chinchipec: Cordillera del Condor east of Los Encuentros, alt. 1650 m, 21 Jan. 1989, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup & A. Jesup 14048 (Holotype: MO).

This species is known from a single collection in the Cordillera del Condor of southeasternmost Ecuador. It is unique in the genus with thick, fusiform leaves. The ramicauls are prolific, less than one centimeter long, and enclosed by only two, microscopically ciliate sheaths that are neither dilated nor with thick margins at the ostium. The sepals are fleshy and thickly carinate; the petals are membranous and elliptical; the trilobed lip is basically similar to those related to *T. scabridula* with a tiny callus at the junction of the lateral lobes with the middle lobe.

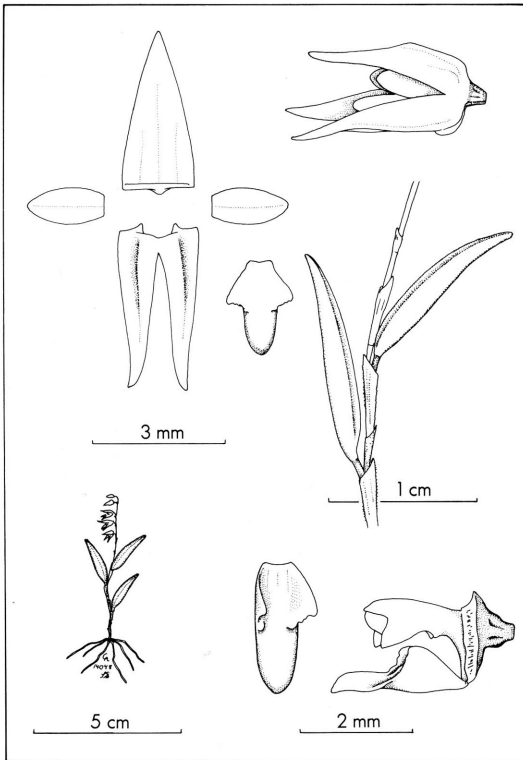


Fig. 85. *Trichosalpinx teres*