

***Trichosalpinx atropurpurea* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *atropurpureus*, "purple," in reference to the color of the flowers.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, ramicaulibus saepe proliferantibus, racemis paucis coetaneis secundis paucifloris folio elliptico longioribus, sepalis atropurpureis glabris ovatis acutis, petalis ellipticis acutis, labello oblongo subtrilobato, lobo antico oblongo apice rotundo, lobis lateralibus infra medium late obtusis.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, superposed, comparatively stout, 6-12 cm long, enclosed by 8-11 lepanthiform sheaths with ciliate ostia. **Leaf** erect to suberect, thickly coriaceous, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 10-23 mm long, 6-10 mm wide, contracted below into a petiole 2-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** several, simultaneous, secund, loose, few-flowered racemes 2-3 cm long including the peduncle 0.5-1 cm long, from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bracts 2.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; **sepals** deep red-purple, glabrous, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, concave, 9.5 mm long, 3.25 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals narrowly triangular, acute, oblique, 9.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, connate 2 mm, each 1-veined; **petals** elliptical, oblique, acute, 6 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** deep purple, oblong-ovate, subtrilobed, 6.5 mm long, 2.75 mm wide across the lobes, the apical portion oblong with the apex rounded, the lateral lobes low, broadly obtuse, below the middle, the disc featureless, the base narrowly truncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** terete, 3 mm long, the anther subapical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Loja: epiphytic in cloud forest above Jimbura, alt. 3350 m, 22 Mar. 1984, *C. Luer, A. Hirtz, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & J. Kuijt* 9638 (Holotype: MO).

This species, known only from a high altitude of southernmost Ecuador, produces caespitose plants with erect ramicauls that are often prolific. Two to four short racemes of several, comparatively large, dark red-purple flowers are produced simultaneously. The petals and lip are large for the flower. The simple lip is obscurely lobed below the middle and the disc is featureless.

Trichosalpinx atropurpurea is one of three distinct species of the genus found at the high, cold, wind-swept pass east of Jimbura near the Peruvian border. The others are *T. jumburae* and *T. metamorpha*. All three are apparently endemic in this area, not having been found at a similar nearby pass south of Yangana.

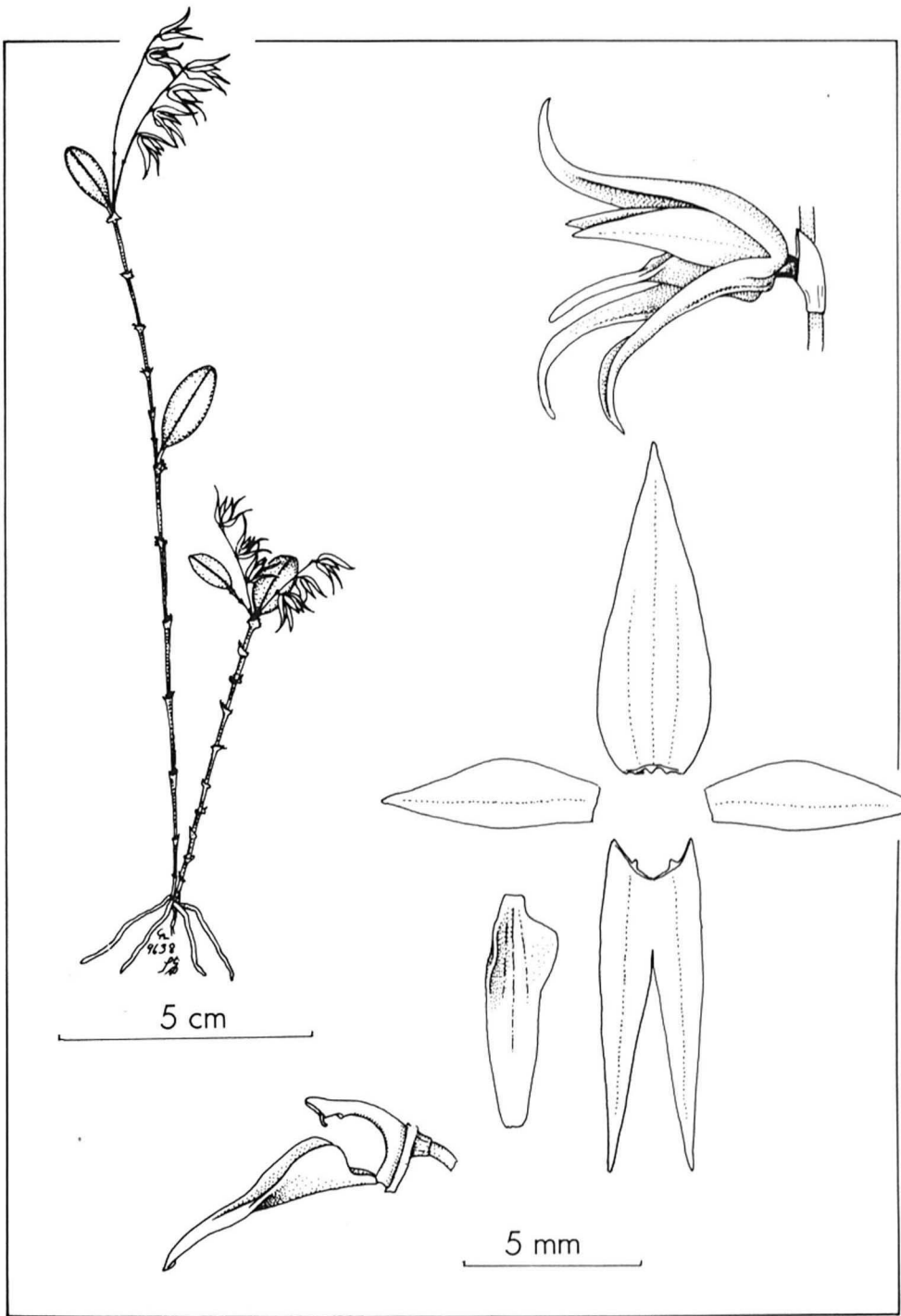


Fig. 30. *Trichosalpinx atropurpurea*