

Trichosalpinx decorata Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Fig. 95.

Ety.: From the Latin *decoratus*, "decorated," referring to the sparsely fimbriate petals.

Planta parva, foliis late ellipticis ramicaulibus brevioribus, vaginis breviciliatis, sepalis lateralibus in synsepalum ovatum connatis, petalis anguste ovatis marginibus sparsim longispiculatis distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 15-17 mm long, enclosed by 4 shortly ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, 13-15 mm long including a petiole 2-3 mm long, 6.5-7.5 mm wide, the apex obtuse to rounded, apiculate, the base contracted into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a lightly flexuous, loose, successively several-flowered raceme, up to 4.5 cm long, borne by a filiform peduncle 1-1.5 cm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts acuminate, spiculate, 1 mm long; pedicels 0.5 mm long; ovary glabrous, 1 mm long; **sepals** yellow-green, sparsely long-spiculate externally, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, acute, concave on the lower two thirds, 4.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide unexpanded, 3-veined, free from the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals connate into an ovate, acute, concave synsepal, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined; **petals** yellow-green, suffused with purple on the basal third, oblong, acute, 4 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, 1-veined, with the margins sparsely long-spiculate; **lip** yellow with the callus purple, fleshy, ovoid, 2.25 mm long, 1.4 mm wide, the apex obtuse, the margins minutely crenulate, the disc with a prominent, erect, subpyramidal callus, papillose on the front surface, the base smooth, concave, broadly truncate, inflexibly attached to the base of the column; **column** yellow-green, erect, stout, terete, 1 mm long, the anther exposed on the front surface of the erect gynostemium, the stigma ventral.

COLOMBIA: Dept. of Valle del Cauca: epiphytic in cloud forest above San José del Palmar, Alto de Los Galápagos, alt. 2100 m, collected by A. De Wilde, flowered in cultivation above Pereira, 10 May 1993, *C. Luer 16738* (Holotype: MO). Dept. of Chocó: above San José del Palmar, Cerro del Torrá, alt. 1920 m, 8 Jan. 1984, *F. A. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz, A. Duque & H. Bayona 1637, 1640* (CUVC, MO).

This species is apparently endemic in a small area of the Western Cordillera of Colombia. It is closely allied to *T. pseudolepanthes*. Vegetatively, the two species are very similar. The flowers are also similar, but the connate lateral sepals, and the sparsely long-spiculate, outstretched petals are distinctive. The lip is basically the same.

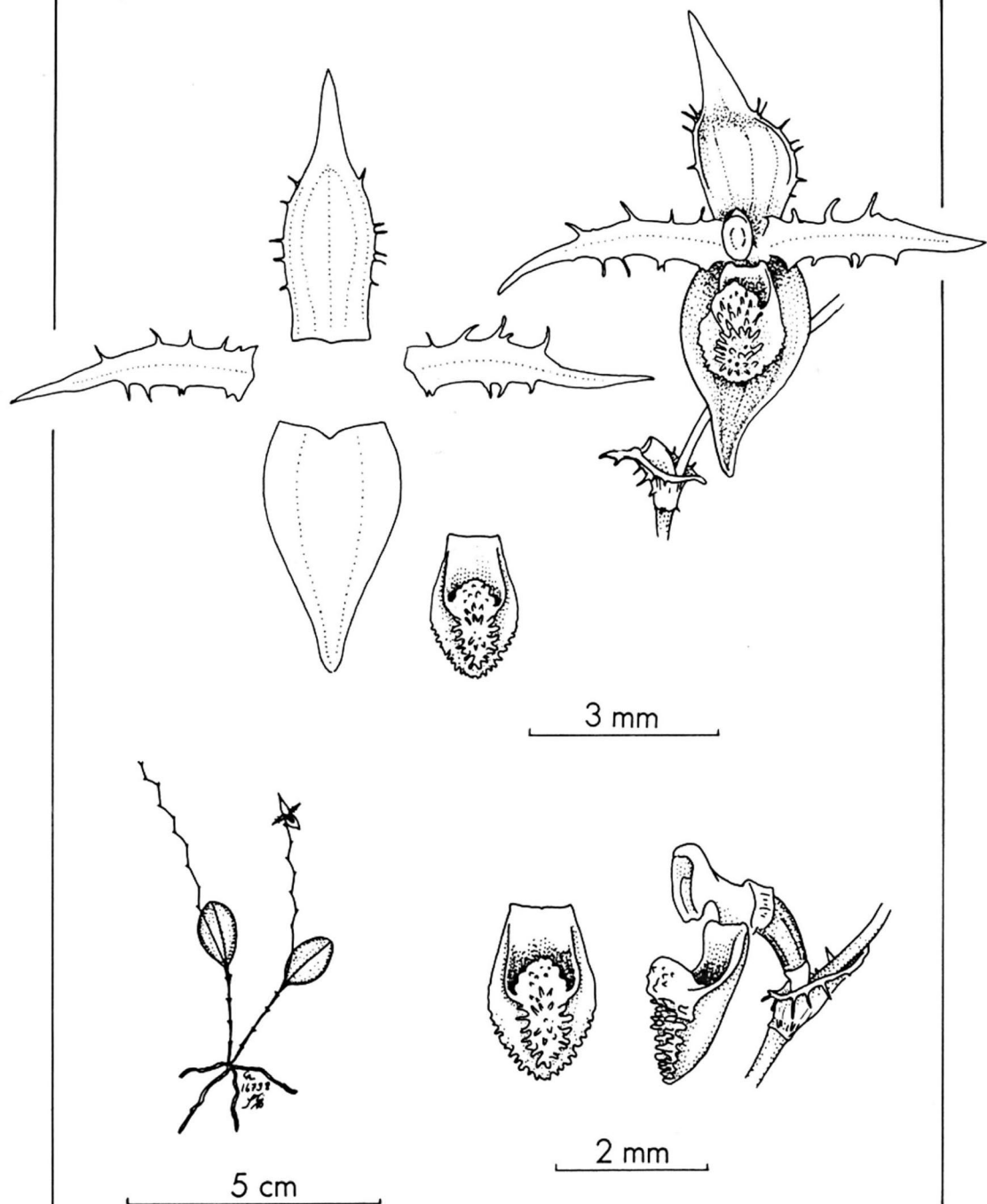


Fig. 95. *Trichosalpinx decorata*