

Trichosalpinx dressleri Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 41.

Ety.: Named in honor of Robert L. Dressler, formerly of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama, who discovered this species.

Planta parva caespitosa, foliis anguste ellipticis ramicaulibus aequilongis cum inflorescentia multilongiore, sepalis acutis caudatis lateralibus profunde connatis, petalis ellipticis, labello oblongo obtuso infra medium bicalloso supra basim alte lobulato.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 10-22 mm long, enclosed by 3-4 closely appressed, microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, 15-25 mm long, 5-7 mm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 1-1.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, strict, secund, successively several-flowered raceme up to 7 cm long including the slender peduncle 4 cm long, 2 flowers often borne simultaneously, from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bracts 2 mm long; pedicels 1.5-2 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** yellow, glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal with 3 maroon veins, ovate-triangular, acute, acuminate above the middle into a slender, tail-like apex, 11 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals connate 4.5 mm into a bifid, ovate, lamina 4 mm wide, 10 mm long including 4-5 mm long tails from the acute, approximate apices, each 2-veined; **petals** elliptical, obtuse, 3 mm long, 1.8 mm wide, suffused with purple along the vein; **lip** yellow, oblong-trilobed, 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, the blade oblong, obtuse, the lateral lobes basal, erect, narrowly obtuse, finger-like, the disc with a low pair of rounded calli below the middle, the base truncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** terete, 1.5 mm long, minutely denticulate at the apex, the anther subapical, the stigma ventral.

PANAMA: Prov. of Panama: epiphytic in forest on Cerro Jefe, alt. ca. 1000 m, 2 Dec. 1979, *R. L. Dressler 5855* (Holotype: MO); *C. Luer* illustr. 16215.

This little species is unique in Central America, its closest relatives being the Andean *T. dirhamphis* and the Brazilian *T. montana*. *Trichosalpinx dressleri* is known from a single collection by Dressler from eastern Panama. It is distinguished by the caespitose habit, narrowly elliptical leaves, and a much longer, successively flowered raceme. The flowers are comparatively large with caudate sepals. The laterals are connate to the base of the tails as in *T. montana*. The petals are obtuse. Most distinct is the oblong lip with a pair of erect, finger-like, basal lobes. The successively flowered inflorescence and the deeply connate lateral sepals seem to indicate a closer affinity to the Brazilian relative.

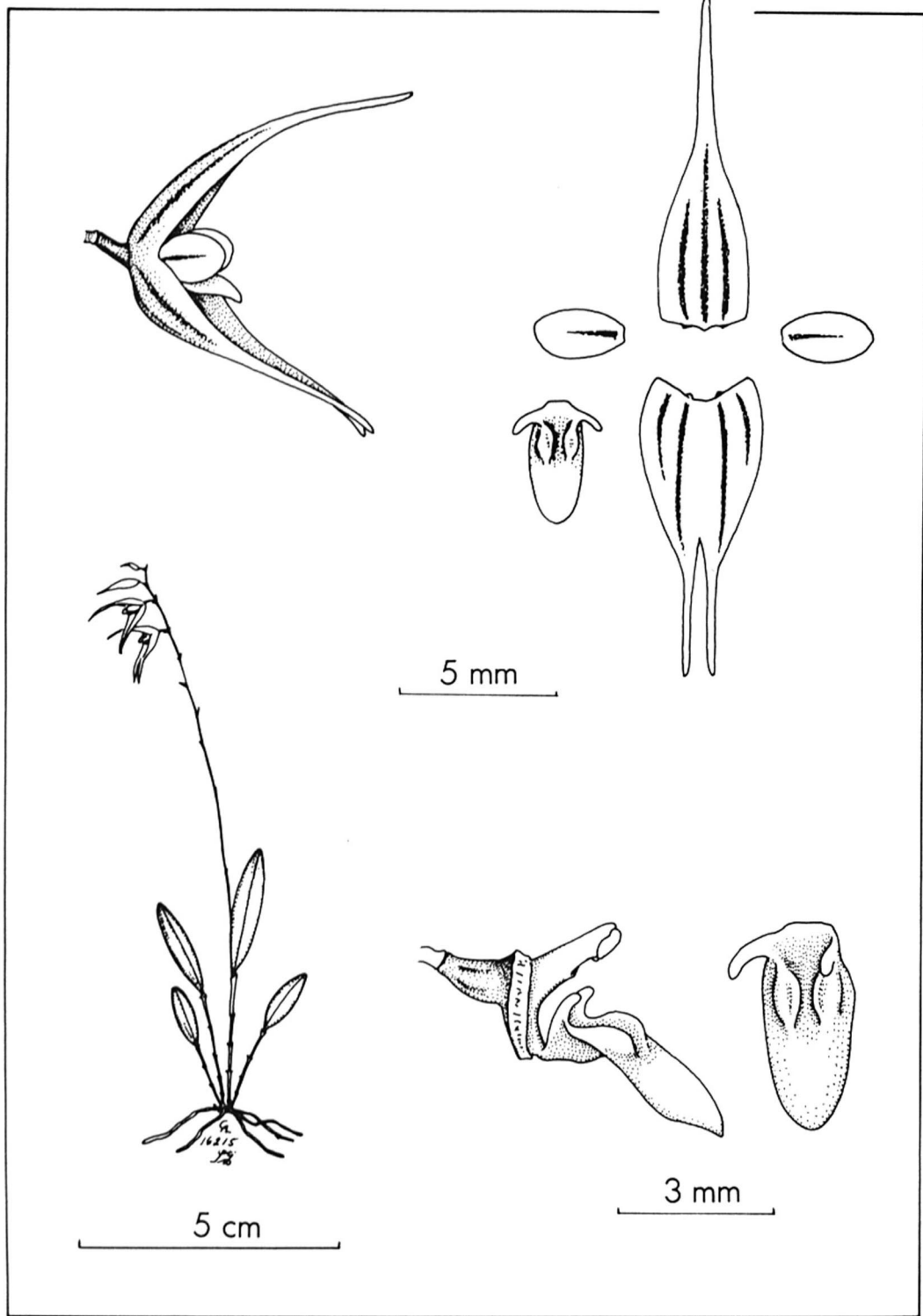


Fig. 41. *Trichosalpinx dressleri*