

**Trichosalpinx fissa** Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 47.

Ety.: From the Latin *fissus*, "cleft," referring to the deep fissure above the base of the lip.

*Planta parva repens, racemo erecto plurifloro foliis anguste ellipticis duplo vel triplolongiore, floribus cleistogamis, sepalis glabris carinatis ovatis, petalis oblongis, et labello crasso trilobato, lobis rotundatis crassis, profunde fisso inter lobos laterales.*

**Plant** small, epiphytic, shortly repent, the rhizome 4-8 mm long between ramicauls; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 10-15 mm long, enclosed by 2 microscopically ciliate-scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, 10-23 mm long, 4-7 mm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** an erect, secund, subdense, raceme of yellow, cleistogamous flowers, up to 7 cm long, including the filiform peduncle 1-3 cm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** glabrous, fleshy, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, deeply concave, 4.5 mm long, 3 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate, acute, 4 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 2.5 mm; **petals** membranous, oblong, obtuse, 2.25 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** yellow, fleshy, three-lobed, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apical lobe thick, rounded, the lateral lobes erect, broadly rounded, thick, especially at the base, the disc deeply cleft above the base between the bases of the lateral lobes, the base narrowly truncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** terete, 2 mm long, the anther subapical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Azuay: epiphytic in scrub vegetation above Lago Zorrogucho, alt. 3200 m, 17 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & J. Kuijt 9534 (Holotype: MO).

VENEZUELA: Edo. Trujillo: Boconó-Guaramacal road, alt. ca. 6000 ft., Aug. 1963, G.C.K. Dunsterville illustr. 799.

This little species, known from southern Ecuador, was illustrated by Dunsterville in 1963 in Venezuela. It is recognized by the shortly repent habit, narrowly elliptical leaves, and a slender raceme of several, yellow, cleistogamous flowers. Most distinguishing is the three-lobed lip that is deeply cleft between the thickened bases of the lateral lobes. The cleft was not seen by Dunsterville.

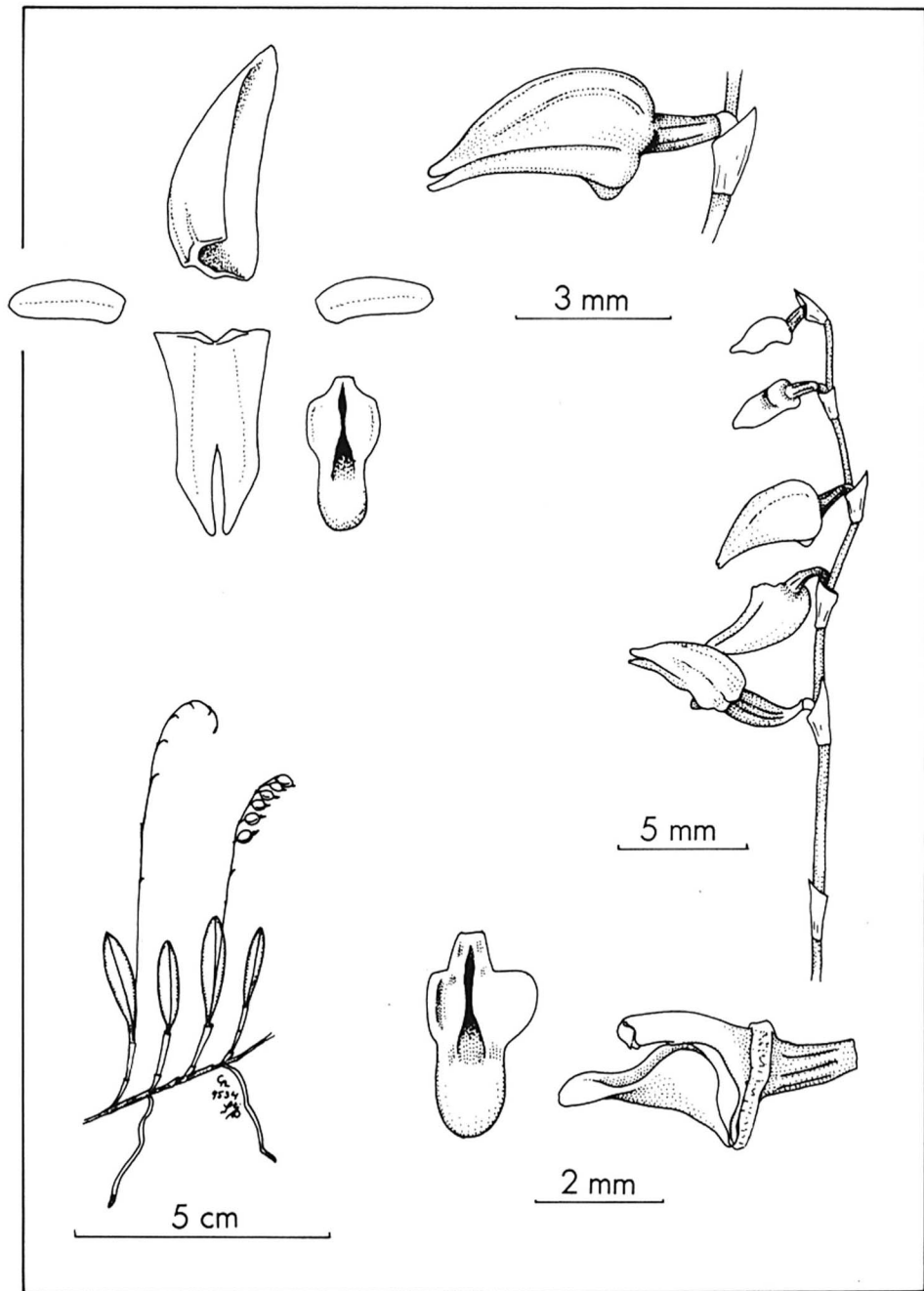


Fig. 47. *Trichosalpinx fissa*