

Trichosalpinx hamiltonii Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 50.

Ety.: Named in honor of A. C. Hamilton who with P. M. Holligan discovered this species.

Planta parva caespitosa, ramicaulibus gracilibus folio elliptico parvo multilongioribus, racemis paucis laxe paucifloris folio multilongioribus, sepalis acutis, petalis ellipticis et labello elliptico infra medium obscure lobato disco cum lamella supra basim.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 5-7 mm long, enclosed by 6-7 closely appressed, microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, suffused with purple beneath, elliptical, subacute, 14-16 mm long including the petiole 2-3 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** a loose, secund, simultaneously 3- to 4-flowered raceme, 5-7 cm long, including the filiform peduncle 2.5-4 cm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 1.5-2 mm long; pedicels 2-3 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** translucent pale red or yellow, glabrous, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, 8-9 mm long, 3.2 mm wide, 3-veined, free from the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals narrowly triangular, acute, 9-10 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 1.5 mm; **petals** translucent, elliptical, obtuse, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** red or yellow, elliptical-ovate, obscurely 3-lobed, 5 mm long, 2 mm wide expanded, the apex narrowly rounded, with obscure, suberect, broadly rounded lobes in the basal third, the base slightly unguiculate with a longitudinal keel on the basal third of the disc, hinged to the column-foot; **column** terete, slender, 2 mm long, the anther subapical, the stigma ventral.

PERU: Dept. of San Martín: Huallaga, valley of Río Apisoncho, alt. 3600 m, 12 Aug. 1965, A. C. Hamilton & P. M. Holligan 1265 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 16400; same locality and date, A. C. Hamilton & P. M. Holligan 1263, 1264 (K).

This species is apparently endemic at a high altitude in northcentral Peru where it was collected on the Cambridge Botanical Expedition to northern Peru in 1965. It is distinguished by slender ramicauls much longer than the small, elliptical leaves. The few-flowered, loose, strict raceme, accompanied by two to four old, spent racemes, far surpass the leaf. The proportionately large flowers vary in color from red to yellow on the specimens collected and segregated by Hamilton. The sepals are acute, and the petals and lip are elliptical and obtuse. A keel is present on the subunguiculate base of the lip.

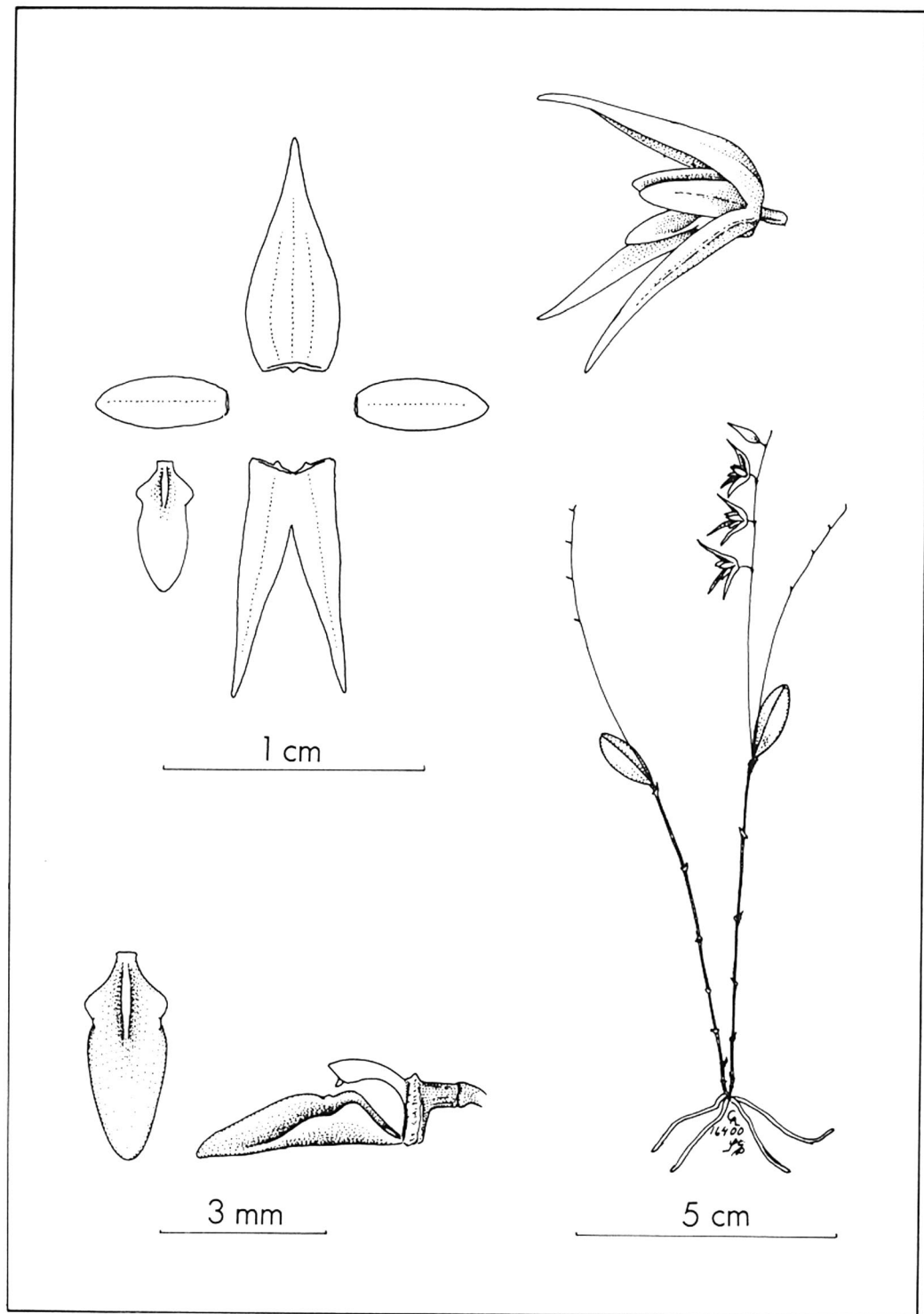


Fig. 50. *Trichosalpinx hamiltonii*