

Trichosalpinx hirtzii Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 51.

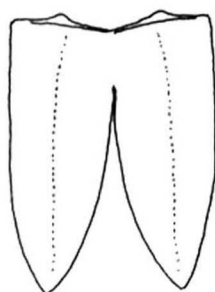
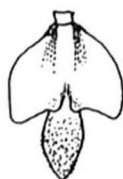
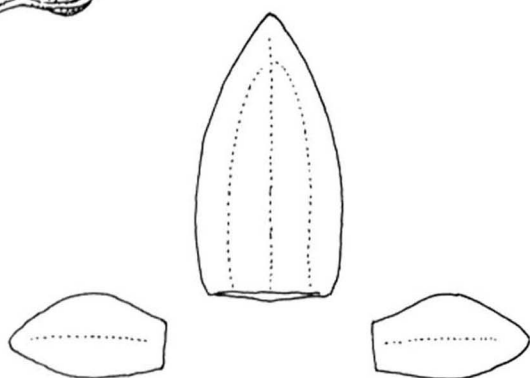
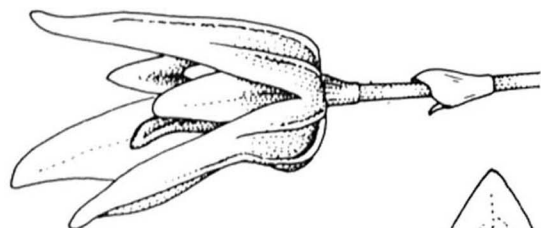
Ety.: Named in honor of Alexander C. Hirtz of Quito, Ecuador, who discovered this species.

Planta parva pendens, ramicaulibus proliferantibus, racemo paucifloro foliis semiteretibus brevior, sepalis petalisque glabris ovatis subacutis, labello trilobato, lobo antico ovato, lobis lateralibus erectis supra medium obtusis.

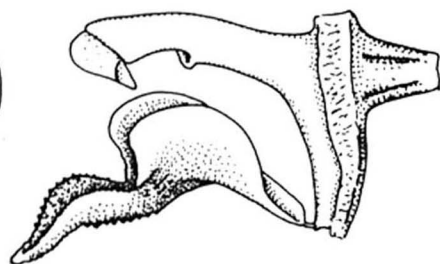
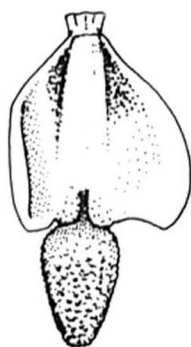
Plant small, epiphytic, prolific, pendent, up to 30 cm long; roots slender at the base. **Ramicauls** descending, slender, producing another ramical from the apex, 15-20 mm long, enclosed by 3-4 red, closely appressed, microscopically ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** descending, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, fusiform, acute, 22-32 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, 3 mm thick, cuneate below into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, successively 2- to 3-flowered raceme, 10-15 mm long, including the filiform peduncle 8-10 mm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 1.2 mm long; pedicels 2-2.5 mm long; ovary 0.75 mm long; **sepals** translucent purple, glabrous, subcarinate, ovate, with subacute, slightly thickened apices, the dorsal sepal 5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 0.5 mm, the lateral sepals 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1-veined, connate 1 mm; **petals** translucent purple, ovate, subacute, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** dark purple, fleshy, three-lobed, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide expanded, the apical lobe ovate, narrowly obtuse, constricted at the base, cellular glandular, the lateral lobes erect, broadly rounded with an obtuse, antrorse angle above the middle, the disc cleft between glandular calli at the anterior margins of the lateral lobes, the base narrowly truncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** terete, 2 mm long, the anther apical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Zamora-Chinchipe: epiphytic in cloud forest east of the pass east of Loja, alt. 2250 m, 25 Jan. 1992, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Jesup, A. Jesup & A. Hirtz 16167 (Holotype: MO).

This rare species found in southern Ecuador, is distinguished by long, flexible, pendent chains of red ramicauls and green, fusiform leaves. The pendent, purple flower is produced successively in a hanging, few-flowered raceme shorter than the leaf. The sepals and petals are simple, but the lip is deeply trilobed. The anterior lobe is ovate, constricted at the base and cellular-glandular, while the lateral lobes are obtuse and extending above the middle.



5 mm



2 mm

5 cm