

Trichosalpinx lankesteriana Luer, *sp. nov.*

TYPE: COSTA RICA: Without collection data, flowered in cultivation at the Lankester Botanical Garden, Cartago, 18 Mar. 1995, *C. Luer 17411* (Holotype: CR; Isotype: MO). Fig. 35.

Species haec *T. blaisdellii* (S.Wats.) Luer affinis, sed floribus duplo majoribus cum sepalis subglabris supra medium crassimis differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, comparatively stout, 3–7 cm long, enclosed by 5–7 minutely ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths with oblique, dilated ostia. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, more or less suffused with purple, elliptical, acute to subacute, 2–6 cm long, 1.5–2 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 3–5 mm long. **Inflorescence** an erect to suberect, subdense, simultaneously several-flowered raceme, 3.5–4 cm long, including the peduncle 2 cm long, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 2.5–3 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 1.5–2 mm long; **sepals** pale yellow-brown, suffused with purple below the middle, glabrous to an occasional, short, marginal hair, thickly fleshy above the middle, the dorsal sepal narrowly ovate, obtuse, 8–10 mm long, 2.5–3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals oblong-ovate, narrowly obtuse, recurved, 8–10 mm long, connate below the middle, forming a mentum with the column-foot; **petals** membranous, translucent, oblong, obtuse, minutely denticulate to ciliate, 2.5 mm long, 0.75–1 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** purple, ciliate, oblong, obtuse, 3 mm long, 1 mm wide, the sides thin, erect below the middle, the disc with a low, longitudinal callus from the base and

disappearing above the middle, the base with a pair of small, retrorse lobules, delicately hinged between to the column-foot; **column** stout, 2.5–3 mm long, longitudinally winged, irregularly denticulate at the apex, the anther and the stigma ventral, the foot thick, 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Charles H. Lankester, whose garden has become the Lankester Botanical Garden, where this species is cultivated.

Trichosalpinx lankesteriana is little more than a geographical variation of the frequent and variable *T. blaisdellii*, which is widely distributed from Mexico into Panama. The two taxa are indistinguishable vegetatively, but *T. lankesteriana* is readily recognized by the considerably larger size of the sepals with laterals that are broad, recurved and markedly fleshy-thickened above the middle. Although the sepals of *T. blaisdellii* are membranous and not thickened in the northern part of its distribution, some specimens with slight to moderate thickening are seen in Costa Rica and Panama. The lacerate petals, oblong lip with cilia, and column of the two taxa are similar.

Trichosalpinx blaisdellii and the large-flowered *T. lankesteriana* seem to be boreal counterparts to the Andean *T. dependens* (Luer) Luer and the larger-flowered *T. berlineri* (Luer) Luer. The flowers of the two pairs of taxa are similar, but most remarkable are the basal lobules of the lip of *T. dependens* and *T. berlineri* that are larger and diverging, and the column that is more distinctly winged above the middle and bidentate at the apex. It should be remembered that no two populations of either of these complexes are identical.

PARATYPE: PANAMA. Chiriquí: Mata Frances, alt. ca. 500 m, collected by H. Butcher, flowered in cultivation by P. Jesup, 17 Oct. 1975, *C. Luer 1188* (SEL).

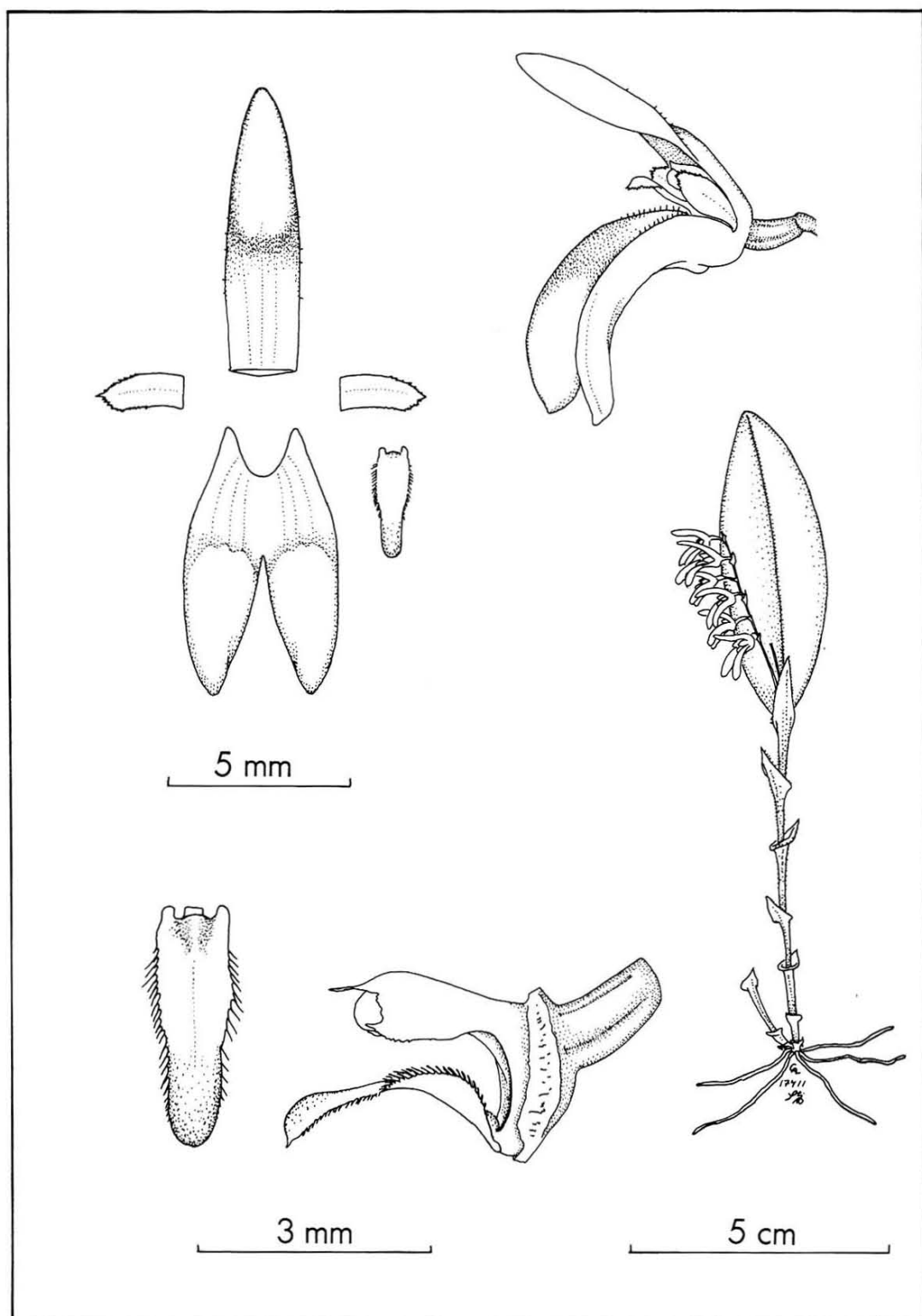


Fig. 35. *Trichosalpinx lankesteriana*