

Trichosalpinx lilliputalis (Luer & Hirtz) Luer, comb. nov.

Bas.: *Lepanthopsis lilliputalis* Luer & Hirtz, Monogr. Syst. Bot. 52: 118, 1994.

Ety.: Named for the fictional country visited by Gulliver where everything was minute.

Plant small, up to 8 cm tall, epiphytic, prolific; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, producing another ramical from the apex, 10-15 mm long, enclosed by 4-5 lepanthiform sheaths, microscopically ciliate along brown ribs, and with ciliate ostia. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 9-12 mm long, 3.5-4 mm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, secund, simultaneously several-flowered raceme, 15-22 mm long, including the filiform peduncle 5 mm long, from the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts 0.5 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 0.25 mm long; **sepals** translucent brown, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, 1.6 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, 3-veined, free from the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals free, recurved, ovate, acute, oblique, 1.3 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, 1-veined; **petals** translucent brown, obovate, acute, 0.9 mm long, 0.3 mm wide; **lip** green, fleshy, cellular glandular, obovate, trilobed above the middle, with the lobes obtuse, 1.1 mm long, 1.1 mm wide expanded, the disc with a pair of parallel calli at the base, the base hinged to the column-foot; **column** terete, 0.5 mm long, the anther dorsal, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Esmeraldas: epiphytic in wet forest west of Lita, alt. 400 m, Oct. 1991, *A. Hirtz 5612* (Holotype: MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 16206; same area, alt. 300 m, 12 Jan. 1992, *C. Luer, A. Hirtz et al. 15575* (MO).

This tiny species, apparently endemic in lowland northwestern Ecuador, is characterized by the prolific habit with lepanthiform sheaths, and with simultaneously multiflowered, secund racemes. The free, ovate sepals are about 1.5 millimeters long; the petals are elliptical and acute, and the broad, trilobed lip bears a pair of basal calli. The column is short with a dorsal anther and an entire, ventral stigma.

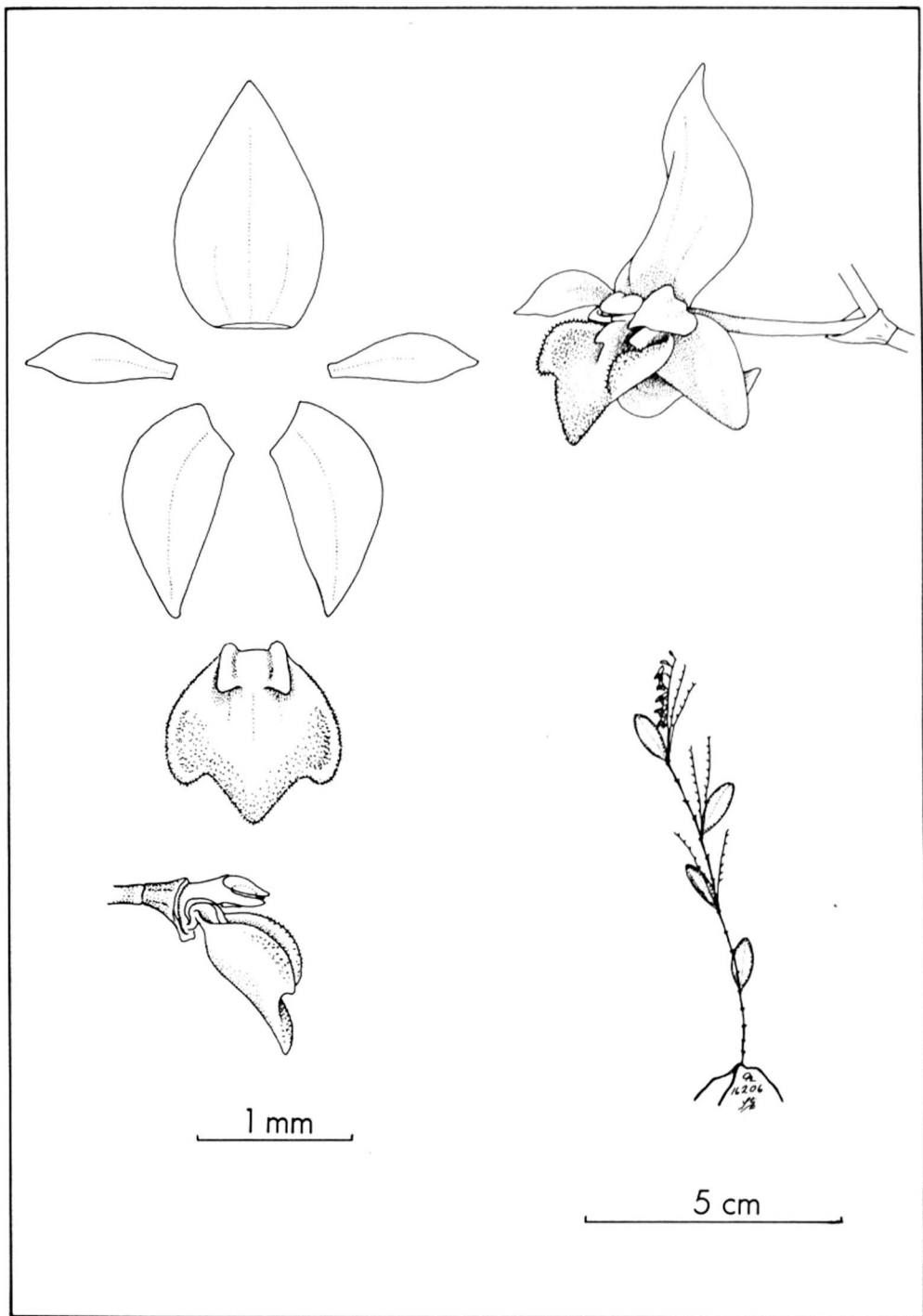


Fig. 106. *Trichosalpinx lilliputalis*