

Trichosalpinx ringens Luer, *sp. nov.* TYPE: PANAMA. Chiriquí: epiphytic in cloud forest, Cerro Colorado, alt. 1670 m, 15 Feb. 1985, C. Luer, J. Luer, R. Dressler & K. Dressler 10539 (MO). Fig. 36.

Planta mediocris, foliis ovatis, inflorescentia uniflora successiviflora, sepalis glabris, sepalo dorsali longo acuto, synsepalo transverse obovato concavo, petalis oblongis ciliatis trinervis, labello

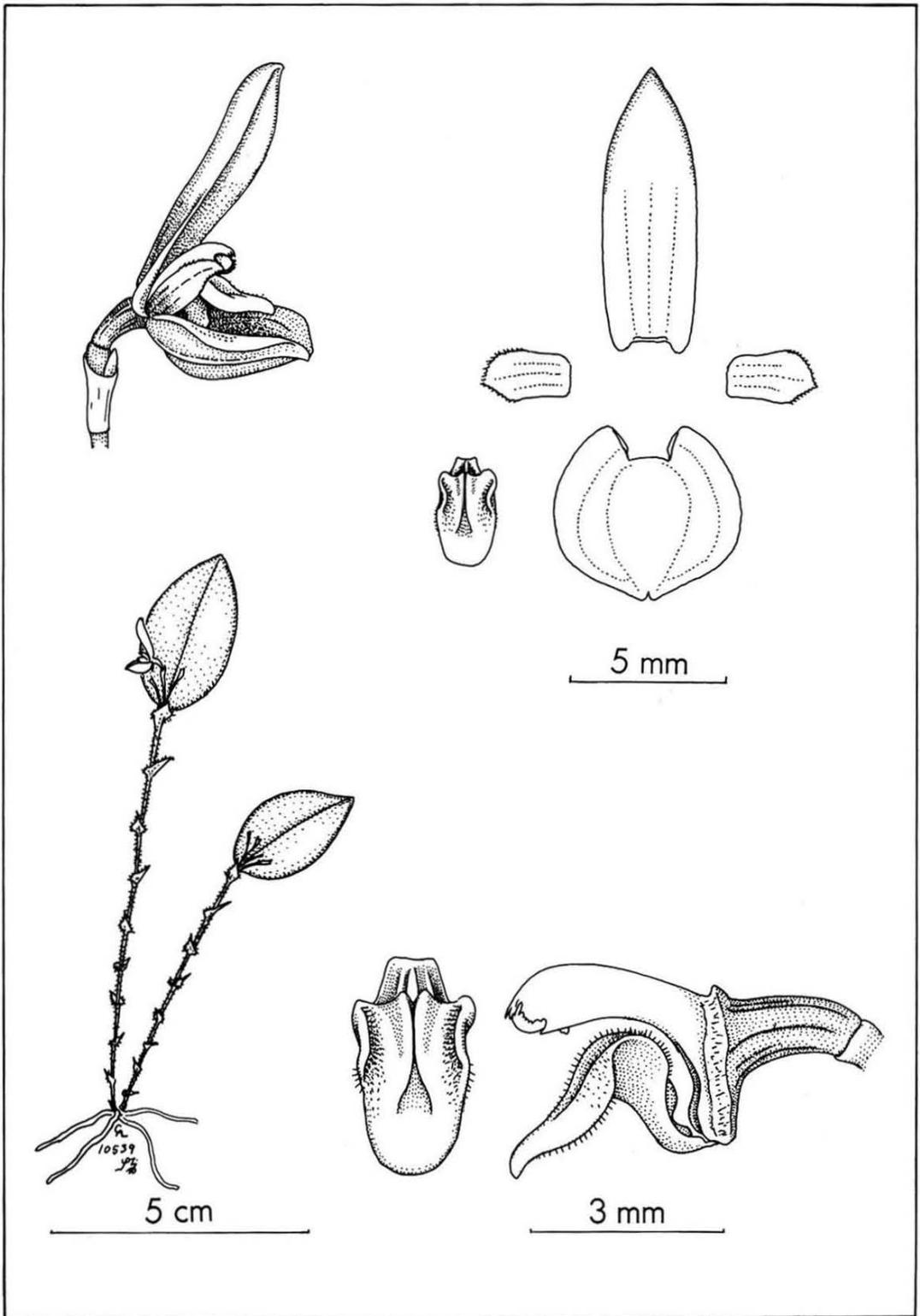


Fig. 36. *Trichosalpinx ringens*

crasso valde arcuato ciliato, disco ad medium profunde fisso, supra basim lamellato.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 5–9 cm long, enclosed by 8–10 coarsely long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, ovate, acute to subacute, 28–35 mm long, 15–20 mm wide, contracted below into a petiole 1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a fascicle of successive, single-flowered peduncles 5–7 mm long, borne in front of the base of the leaf, from near the apex of the ramicaul; floral bract 2.5 mm long; pedicel 2.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** purple-brown, fleshy, subcarinate, glabrous, the dorsal sepal narrowly obovate, acute, 9 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into a concave, transversely obovate synsepal with the apex transversely obtuse, shallowly bifid, 5 mm long, 6 mm wide, 4-veined together; **petals** translucent, oblong, 3 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex obtuse, ciliate; **lip** marked with dark purple-brown, thick, oblong-subtrilobed, strongly arcuate, 2.5 mm long, 1.35 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded, the lateral lobes rounded, erect, pubescent and long ciliate, occupying the middle third, the disc deeply cleft between a pair of erect, lamellate plates, and with a longitudinal lamella on the lower third above the base, hinged between to the column-foot; **column** white, stout, 2 mm long, with the apex finely denticulate-erose, the anther and the stigma ventral, the foot thick, 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *ringens*, “gaping,” referring to the bilabiate flower.

This most unusual species of subgenus *Trichosalpinx* occurs infrequently in western Panama and Costa Rica. It is distinguished from all the other species by the coarsely long-ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths, and flowers produced singly in a fascicle. The thick, narrow dorsal sepal stands erect above the much shorter, transversely obovate synsepal. The ciliate petals are three-veined (one-veined in all others). The lip also deviates from the usual pattern by being deeply cleft between a pair of plates between erect, rounded, ciliate and pubescent medial lobes. A longitudinal carina passes from the cleft to the base which lacks the pair of lobules found in all the other species.

PARATYPES: COSTA RICA. Cartago: above San Cristóbal Norte, alt. 1780 m, 26 Mar. 1995,

C. Luer, J. Luer, J. Atwood, R. Dressler, K. Dressler & Dora Mora de Retana 17480 (MO). PANAMA: Chiriquí: Cerro Colorado, 50 Km north of San Félix, alt. 1400–1450 m, 20 Sept. 1977, *R. L. Dressler 5715 (MO).*