

Trichosalpinx steyermarkii Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 79.

Ety.: Named in honor of Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, indefatigable collector of botanical specimens.

Species haec *T. pusillae* (H.B.K.) Luer affinis, sed habitu minore, labelli lobis lateralibus dimidio inferiore occupantibus et lobo anteriore triangulari differt.

Plant extremely small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender, but comparatively thick. Ramicauls erect, 3-4 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 microscopically scabrous, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous with convex surfaces, suborbicular, obtuse, 3-4 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, broadly cuneate below into a petiole 0.25 mm long. **Inflorescence** a solitary flower or a loose, 2-flowered raceme 10-15 mm long including the filiform peduncle 10-12 mm long, from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bracts 0.75 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; **sepals** apparently yellow or white, glabrous, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular, concave, acute, 2.5 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined, barely connate to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals narrowly triangular, oblique, acute, 2.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, each 1-veined, connate 0.3 mm; **petals** translucent, elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 1.25 mm long, 0.3 mm wide, vein not visible; **lip** ovate-trilobed, 1.75 mm long, 1.25 mm wide across the lobes, the apical lobe triangular, narrowly obtuse, the lateral lobes occupying the lower half, erect, broadly obtuse, the disc with a faint, rounded callus at the forward angles of the lobes, the base unguiculate-truncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** semiterete, 0.5 mm long, the foot short, the anther and the stigma ventral.

VENEZUELA: Edo. Bolívar: Auyan-tepui, alt. 1800 m, 7 May 1964, J. A. Steyermark 93547 (Holotype: AMES; Isotypes: K, NY), C. Luer illustr. 17259.

Trichosalpinx pusilla is a frequent, tiny species distributed widely at high altitudes from the tepuis of Venezuela, to south in the Andes from Colombia into Peru. Among numerous collections made by Steyermark from the Venezuelan

tepnis, one collection from a lower altitude seemed exceptionally minute. A flower hydrated in concentrated ammonia revealed a minute lip with morphological features that differed from others examined. It is possible that this collection represents merely an aberration from the usual *T. pusilla*, but it is also possible that it is indeed distinct and that other unrecognized collections are mixed among the numerous collections cited for *T. pusilla*.

Trichosalpinx steyermarkii is the smallest member of the genus. The suborbicular leaves less than four millimeters long are borne by ramicauls also less than four millimeters long. The sepals are two and a half millimeters long. The lip with lobes filling the basal half with the anterior lobe triangular differs from the oblong lip of *T. pusilla* with lobes on the basal quarter or third.

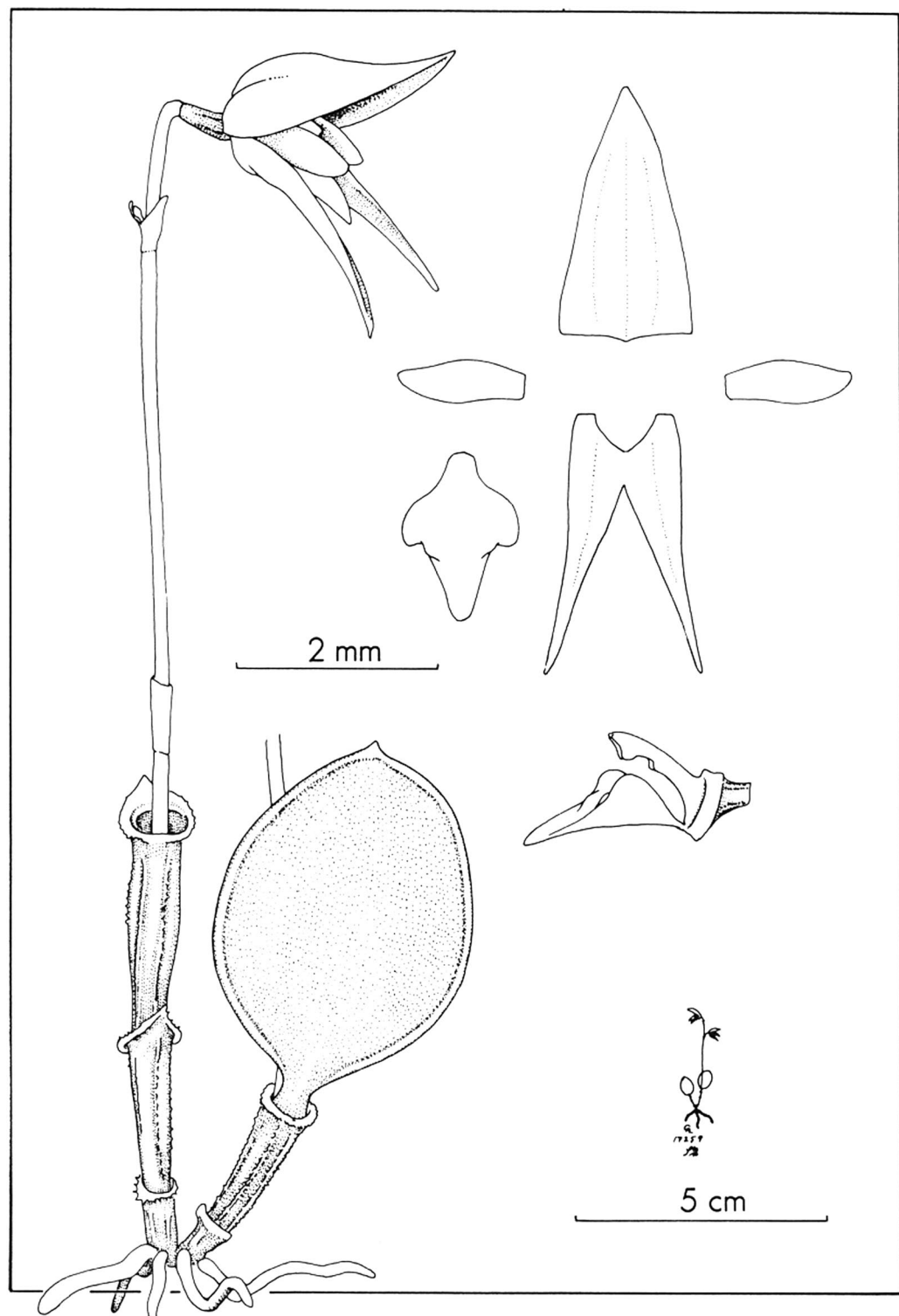


Fig. 79. *Trichosalpinx steyermarkii*