

Trichosalpinx strumifera Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 80.

Ety.: From the Latin *strumifer*, "bearing a swelling," in allusion to the large chin of the lateral sepals.

Planta parva pendens repensve, ramicaulibus proliferantibus, racemo paucifloro foliis parvis ellipticis plus minusve aequilongo, sepalis glabris ovatis ad medium connatis, petalis ellipticis, labello oblongo trilobato, lobo antico rotundo minute papilloso, lobis lateralibus longiciliato supra medium obtusis et inter lobos disco villosis.

Plant small, epiphytic, prolific, creeping to pendent, up to 20 cm or more long; roots slender at the base. Ramicauls ascending or descending, slender, producing another ramicaul from the apex, 15-20 mm long, enclosed by 3 ciliate, lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** ascending or descending, thickly coriaceous, broadly elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 7-10 mm long, 4-6 mm wide, contracted below into a petiole 0.5-1 mm long. **Inflorescence** a few-flowered, secund raceme up to 10 mm long including the peduncle ca. 2 mm long, from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bract 1 mm long; pedicel 2 mm long; ovary 0.5 mm long; **sepals** translucent white, glabrous, subcarinate, the dorsal sepal ovate, subacute, concave, 5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide expanded, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 2.5 mm, the lateral sepals ovate, oblique, 4.5 mm long, connate 2.5 mm to form a prominent, subglobose mentum at the base, 3.5 mm wide expanded, each 1-veined; **petals** translucent, elliptical, oblique, subacute, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 1-veined; **lip** white, oblong-obovate, trilobed, 3 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 1.5 mm wide expanded, the apical lobe rounded, cellular-papular, the lateral lobes long-ciliate, ending in obtuse angles above the middle, the disc villous between the lateral lobes, the base subtruncate, hinged to the column-foot; **column** terete, 2 mm long, the anther subapical, the stigma ventral.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Zamora-Chinchipec: epiphytic in cloud forest above Valladolid, alt. 2000 m, 18 Mar. 1984, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, S. Dalström, T. Höijer & J. Kuijt 9820 (Holotype: MO); same area, alt. 2300 m, 1 Feb. 1985, G. Harling & L. Anderson 21378 (GB).

Vegetatively, this long-creeping species from southeastern Ecuador is similar to several others (i.e. *T. chamaelepanthes*), but it is distinguished from them by a short, few-flowered raceme; obtuse sepals connate for about half their length, and obliquely elliptical petals. The lip is deeply three-lobed with obtuse, ciliate lateral lobes extending above the middle, and villous between them. The ovate anterior lobe is minutely papillose.

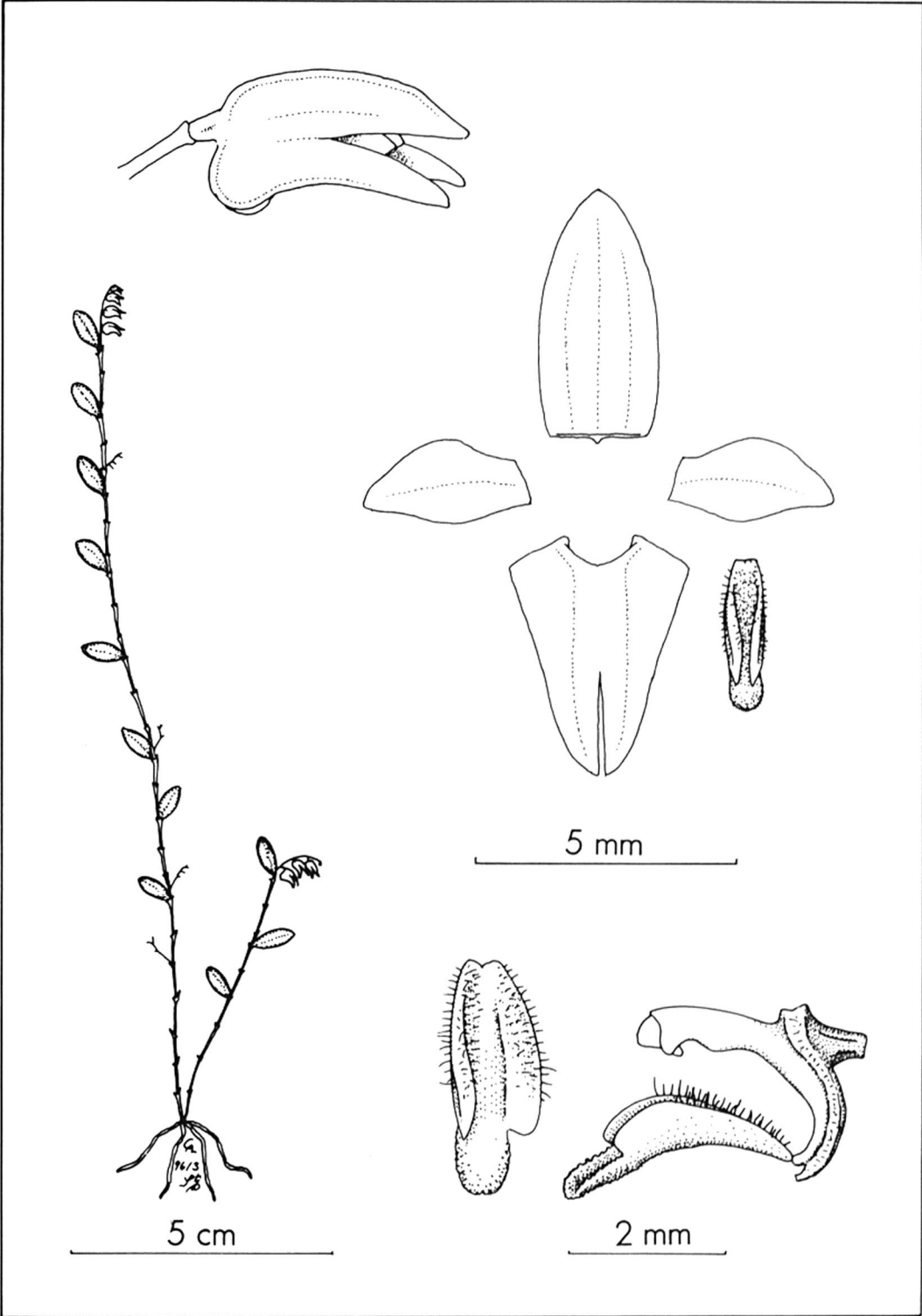


Fig. 80. *Trichosalpinx strumifera*