Trisetella cordeliae Lucr, sp. nov.

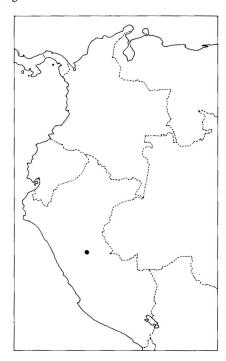
Ety.: Named in honor of Cordelia Head Webb of J & L Orchids, Easton, CT., who discovered this species.

Planta parva flore grandi, pedunculo scarbroso foliis crassis anguste linearibus longiore, ovario verrucoso, sepalis lateralibus in laminam latum obtusum connatis cum mento parvo, sepalorum caudis clavatis et labello quinquecarinato.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls 4-5 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. Leaf erect, fleshy, linear, semiterete, acute, 2.5-3 cm long, 1.5 mm wide. Inflorescence a succession of a few single flowers borne in a congested raceme by an erect, slender, verrucose peduncle 5-5.5 cm long, with a bract below the middle, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts 5-6 mm long; pedicel 5-6 mm long; ovary 2 mm long, verrucose; dorsal sepal yellow-orange, minutely ciliate on the margins, transversely ovate, concave, 5 mm long, 8 mm wide expanded, connate to the lateral sepals for 3 mm to form a gaping, sepaline cup, the obtuse apex conduplicate, abruptly contracted into a slender, erect, terete, clavate tail 13 mm long; lateral sepals yellow-orange, suffused with purple above the middle, minutely short-pubescent, 13 mm long, connate 13 mm, into an oblong, widely expanded lamina, 9 mm wide, with a shallow mentum above the base, the apex rounded, abruptly contracted laterally 4 mm below the apex into slender, clavate tails 7-8 mm long; petals translucent yellow, with a purple midvein, oblong, 2.75 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, the apex truncate-tridentate; lip purple with the apex yellow, oblong-ovate, 3.25 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex subacute, the disc with 5 longitudinal calli: a central pair of rounded calli above the base, flanked to either side by another, low, longitudinal callus, each with an acute, erect process near the middle, the fifth callus midline near the middle, the base cordate-cleft, hinged to the compressed apex of the column-foot; column purple, semiterete, 3 mm long, the foot channeled, 1 mm long.

PERU: Dept. of Huánuco: Debesorea near Tingo Maria, alt. 1800 m, epiphytic on large, felled tree, collected out of flower 1 Oct. 1987 by C. Head, W. Turey & M. Arias, flowered in cultivation at J & L Orchids at Easton, CT. 188-290, June 1988, C. Luer 13729 (Holotype: MO).

Vegetatively this large-flowered species is indistinguishable from most of the other members of the genus. The peduncle is lightly but distinctly scabrous except near the apex. The lateral sepals are connate into a broadly expanded synsepal with a rounded apex with lateral, diverging, clavate tails. The petals are not remarkable, but five longitudinal calli course down the lip. An acute, erect process is present near the middle of the lateralmost pair of calli.



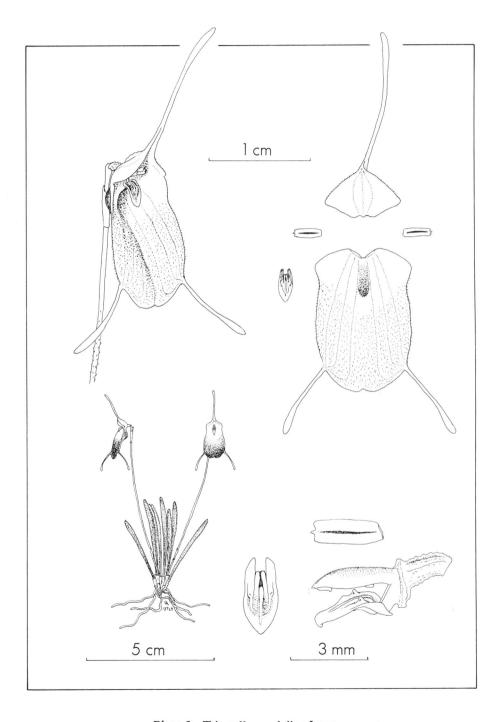


Plate 3. Trisetella cordeliae Luer