

***Trisetella fissidens* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *fissidens*, "a cracked tooth," referring to the jagged, toothlike processes on the lip.

Inter species generis *Trisetellae* Luer species haec habitu parvo foliis anguste semiteretibus, sepalis ciliatis, sepalo dorsali proportione parvo cum caudam capillari leviter incrassatam, sepalorum caudis capillaribus, labello infra medium concavo carinis supra medium irregulariter dentatis distinguitur.

**Plant** small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 2-3 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thickly coriaceous, semiterete, channeled, narrowly elliptical to linear, acute, 15-20 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide. **Inflorescence** a succession of single, purple flowers borne in a congested raceme by a slender, erect, smooth peduncle 25-35 mm long, with a bract below the middle, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts 3-4 mm long; pedicel 5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long, subverrucose; **dorsal sepal** minutely ciliate, transversely ovate, concave, 3 mm long, 4 mm wide expanded, connate to the lateral sepals for 1.25 mm to form a gaping sepaline cup, the apex obtuse, conduplicate, contracted into a more or less reflexed, slender tail 9 mm long, slightly thickened toward the apex; **lateral sepals** ciliate, minutely pubescent within, connate into an oblong, concave, obtuse lamina 11 mm long, 6 mm wide expanded, the tails slender, 7 mm long, emerging laterally 2 mm below the apex; **petals** translucent, membranous, oblong, 2 mm long, 1.75 mm wide, the apex truncate, apiculate, microscopically erose; **lip** ovate, 3 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, concave below the middle with thin margins, the apex narrowly obtuse, thick with the margins decurved, the disc with a pair of carinae with, irregular, acute teeth above the middle of the lip, channeled centrally, the base cordate-cleft, hinged to the compressed apex of the column-foot; **column** semiterete, 2 mm long, the foot 0.75 mm long.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Napo: "Hollin-Loreto," alt. 1000 m, Nov. 1988, *A. Hirtz* 3924 (Holotype: MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 14368

This species was recently discovered in the Oriente of Ecuador by Alexander Hirtz. Although it is similar to the ubiquitous *T. trigloch* complex, *T. fissidens* is distinguished by the proportionately small dorsal sepal with a slender tail slightly thickened near the apex; ciliate sepals with the slender tails of the lateral sepals not thickened; and an ovate lip thinly concave in the lower half with a few irregular, pointed teeth on the carinae above the middle.



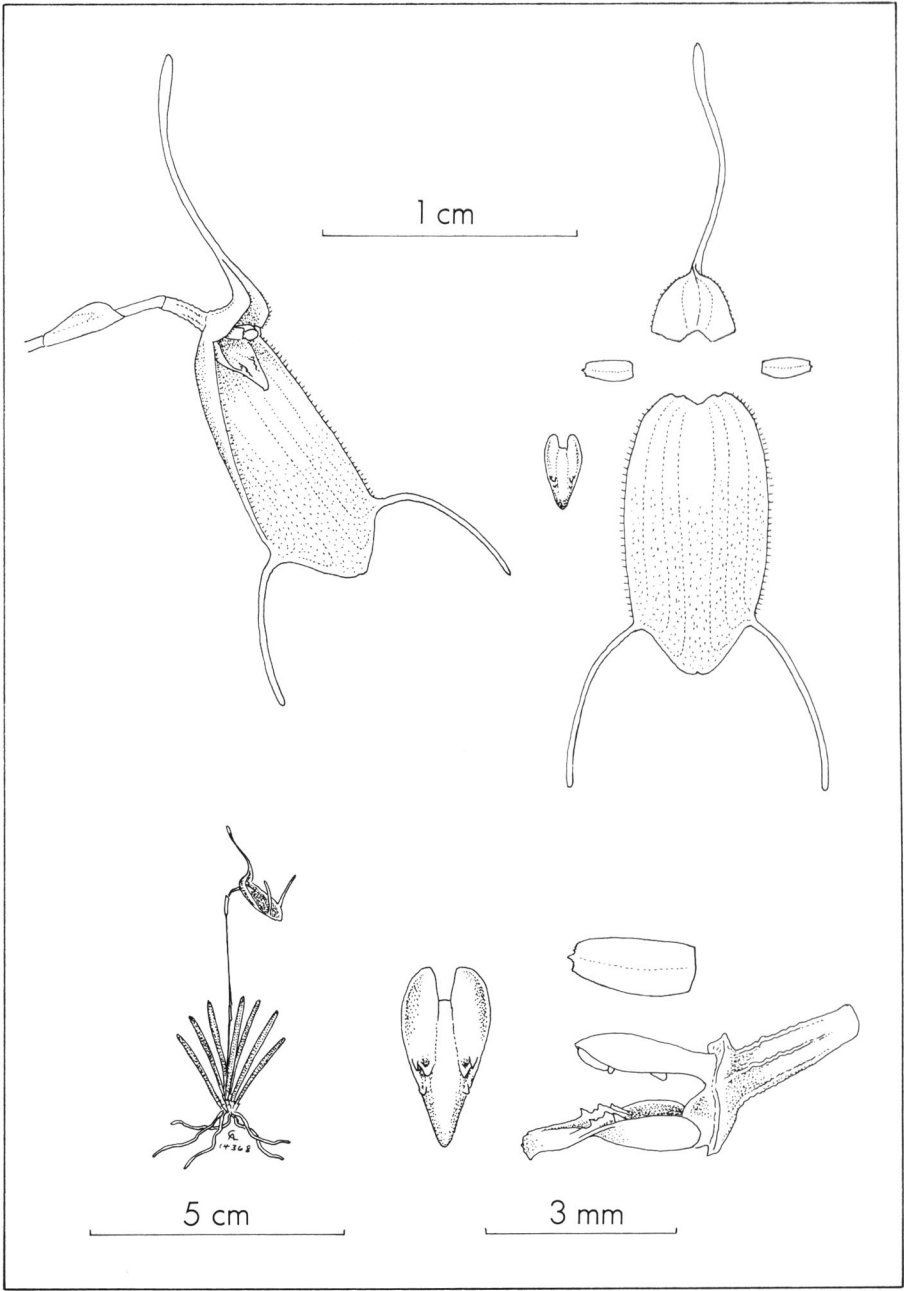


Plate 7. *Trisetella fissidens* Luer & Hirtz