

***Trisetella sororia* Luer & Andreetta, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *sororius*, "like a sister," referring to the close relationship of this species to others in the genus.

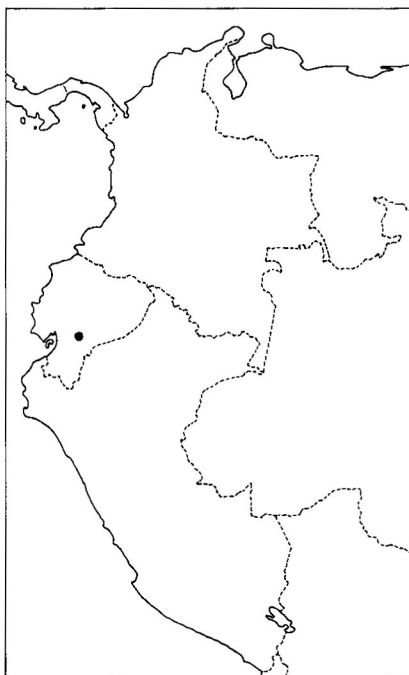
Inter species generis *Trisetellae* Luer species haec pedunculo glabro plurifloro foliis angustissimis longiore, sepalo dorsali transverse ovato cum cauda brevi crassa clavata, synsepalo oblongo concavo cum caudis brevibus crassis infra apicibus, petalis ellipticis tridentatis, labello ovato bicarinato distinguitur.

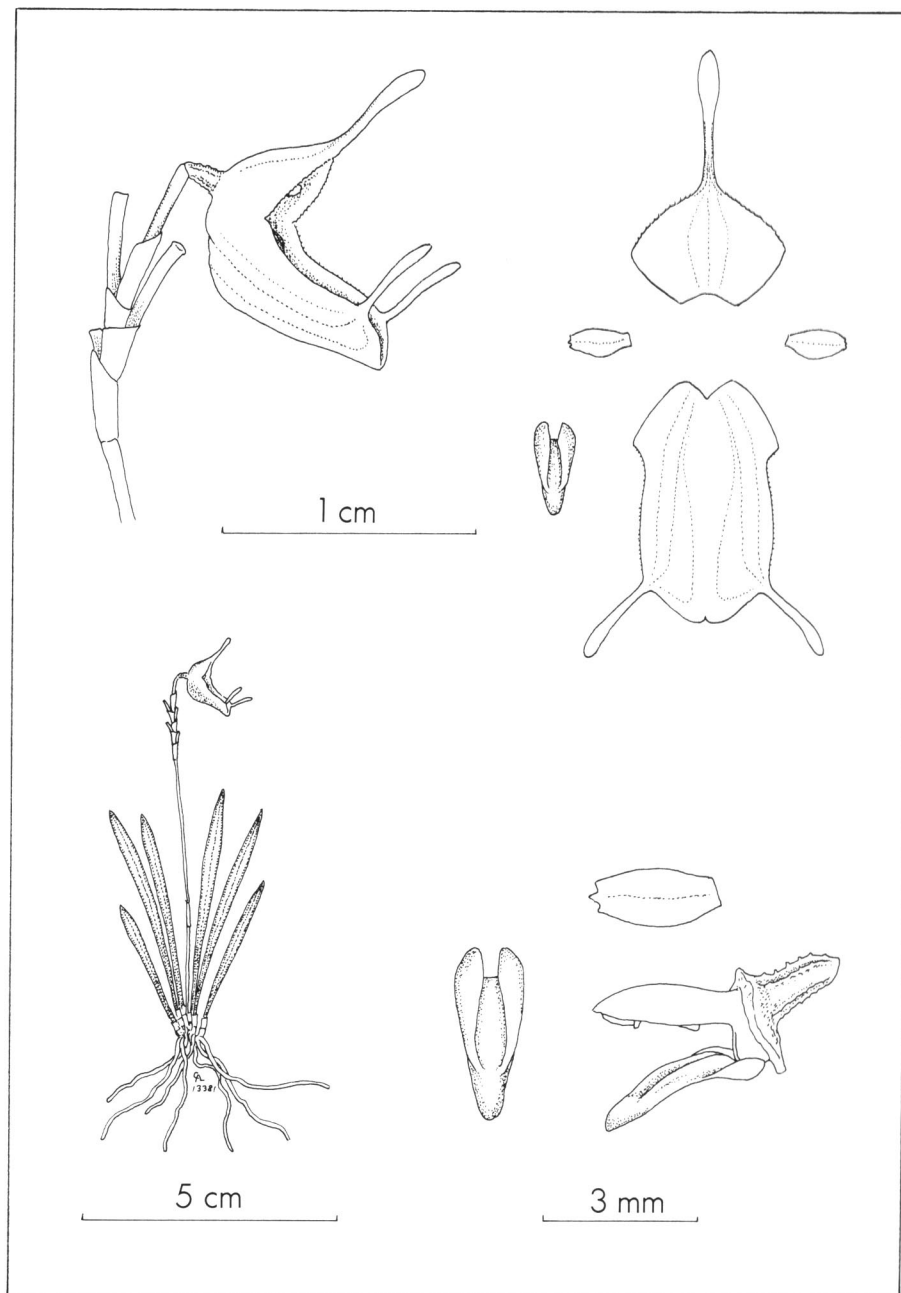
Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, 6-11 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 thin, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly linear-terete, acute, the base epetiolate, 3-4.5 cm long, 2 mm wide. **Inflorescence** a succession of single flowers borne in a congested several-flowered raceme by a slender, erect, smooth peduncle 5-6 cm long, with a bract near the base, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts 3 mm long; pedicel 4-5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long, verrucose; **dorsal sepal** yellow-orange, microscopically ciliate along the free margins, transversely ovate, concave, 4.5-5 mm long, 6 mm wide, connate to the lateral sepals for 2.5 mm to form a sepaline cup, the transversely obtuse apex contracted into an erect, clavate tail 5 mm long; **lateral sepals** purple, microscopically cellular-glandular, connate 9 mm into a deeply concave, oblong, obtuse lamina 9 mm long, 6 mm wide expanded, with a broad mentum below the middle, the tails produced laterally, below and 2 mm from the apex, the tails yellow-orange, stout, subclavate, 4 mm long; **petals** translucent yellow, elliptical, 2.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, the apex truncate, tridentate; **lip** dark purple, ovate, 3.5 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the apex narrowly obtuse, the disc with a low pair of longitudinal calli, the base cordate-cleft, hinged to the short, compressed apex of the column-foot; **column** green, semiterete, 3 mm long, the foot 1 mm long.

ECUADOR: Prov. of Morona-Santiago: Valle del Paute, alt. 2200 m, collected by A. Andreetta & M. Portilla, flowered in cultivation at Paute, 16 May 1988, *C. Luer 13381* (Holotype: MO).

This species is closely allied to the ubiquitous *T. trigloch* complex, but the general appearance varies so far from those taxa accepted in the complex, that I believe it should be recognized at the specific level.

The racemes produce at least seven flowers successively, those of *T. trigloch* produce only two or three. The ovary is verrucose; the sepals are short and broad with short, clavate tails. In common with *T. trigloch* are the terete leaves, smooth peduncles, and the petals, lip and column.



Plate 15. *Trisetella sororia* Luer & Andreetta