

**Trichosalpinx macphersonii** Luer, sp. nov.

Fig. 58.

Ety.: Named in honor of Dr. Gordon McPherson of the Missouri Botanical Garden, who discovered this species.

Species haec *T. scabridulae* (Rolfe) Luer similis, sed foliis marginatis minute denticulatis et ramicaulium vaginarum ostiis dilatatis longiciliatisque differt.

**Plant** very small, epiphytic, prolific; roots slender at the base. Ramicauls erect, slender, producing another ramical from the apex, 6-8 mm long, enclosed by 3-4 lepanthiform sheaths with long-ciliate, dilated ostia. **Leaf** 3-striped with purple beneath, erect, coriaceous, with margins minutely denticulate and margined, broadly elliptical, obtuse to rounded at the apex, 7-8 mm long, 4-5 mm wide, broadly cuneate or rounded below into a petiole 1-1.5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a loose, subflexuous, simultaneously few-(4-)flowered raceme 17 mm long including the filiform peduncle 10 mm long on the only specimen, from near the apex of a ramicaul; floral bracts 1 mm long; pedicels 5 mm long; ovary 0.3 mm long; **sepals** white, pale green toward the tips, glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal ovate-triangular and concave below the middle, acute, acuminate above the middle, 7 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined, barely connate to the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals connate at the base, narrowly triangular, attenuate, acute, oblique, 7 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 1-veined; **petals** membranous, elliptical, oblique, subacute, 1.5 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, without a visible vein; **lip** yellowish, oblong-subtrilobed, 1.8 mm long, 0.75 mm wide across the lobes expanded, the apical lobe oblong with the apex rounded, the lateral lobes low, erect, broadly rounded below the middle, with a very small, obscure callus at the forward angle of the lobes, and a low, longitudinal callus above the base, the base truncate, hinged on the end to the column-foot; **column** clavate, obtusely winged at the apex, 1 mm long, the foot 0.5 mm long, the anther subapical, the stigma ventral.

PANAMA: Prov. of Panama: vicinity of Cerro Jefe, alt. 700-800 m, 23 July 1988, *G. McPherson 12777* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17302.

This little species is known from only a single specimen that was collected in 1988 by Gordon McPherson in a well-botanized area near Panama City. The inflorescence is very similar in all respects to that of the Andean *T. scabridula*. Vegetatively, however, it is very distinct. The sheaths of comparatively stout ramicauls are long-ciliate along the dilated margins of the ostia. The leaves are similar in size, but the margins are minutely denticulate, a character found in many species of several genera on the island of Hispaniola. To my knowledge, only one other species of *Trichosalpinx*, the Central American *T. membraniflora*, has similar, minutely denticulate margins of the leaves. In addition, the leaves of *T. macphersonii* are conspicuously suffused with purple beneath along the three veins.

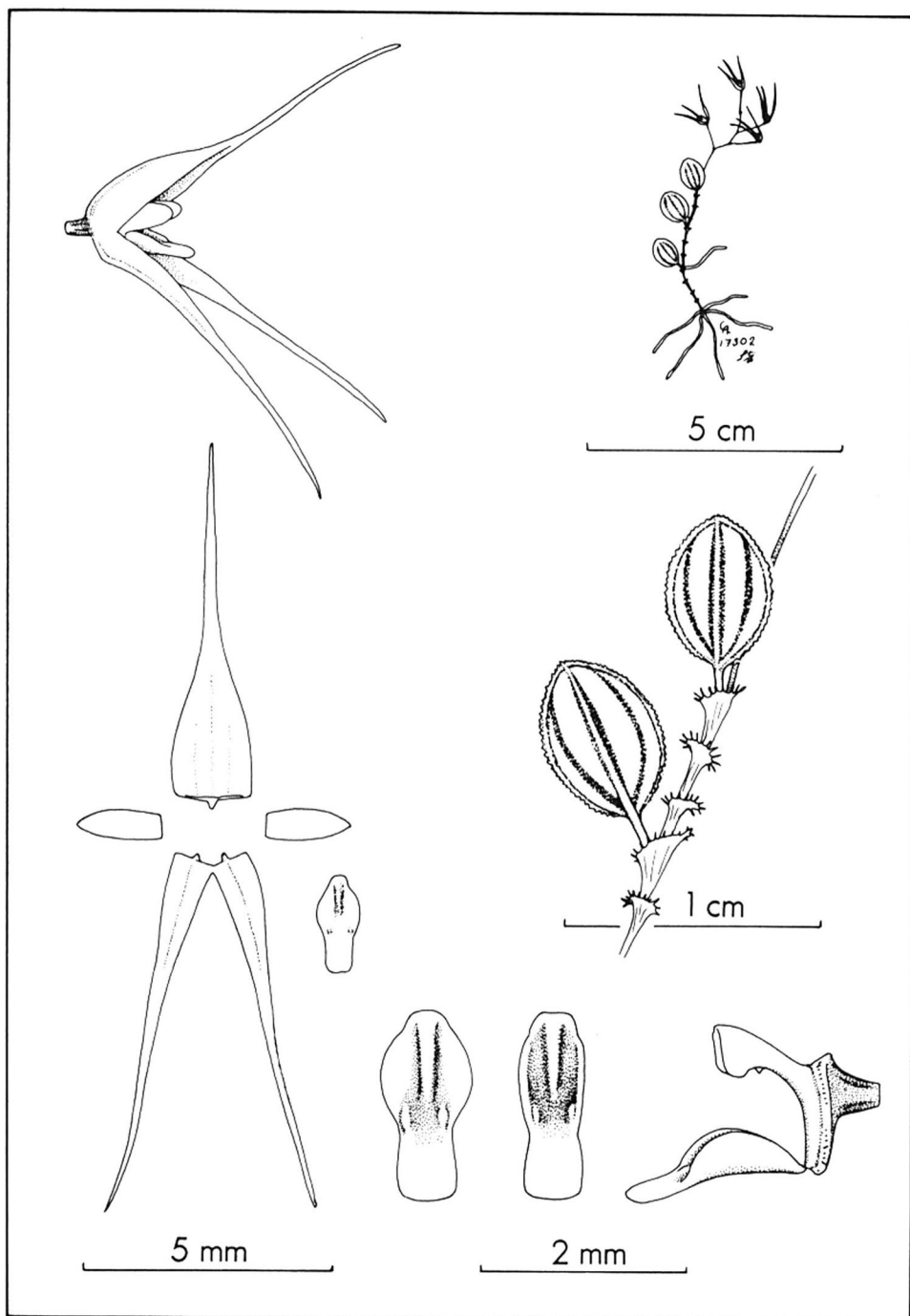


Fig. 58. *Trichosalpinx macphersonii*