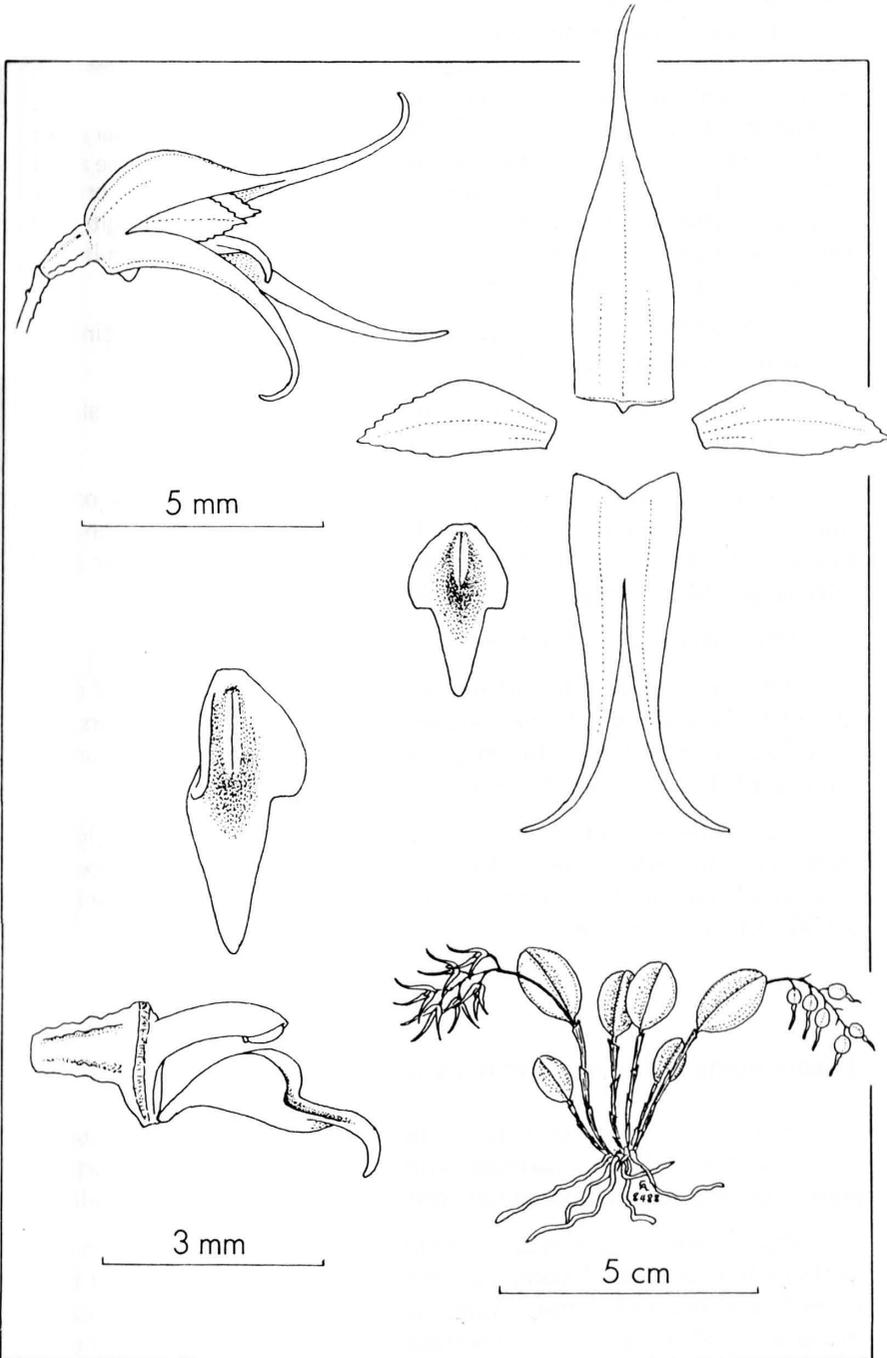


Trichosalpinx vertex Luer & Escobar, sp. nov.

Planta parva caespitosa caulibus secundariis quam foliis late ellipticis duplolongioribus, floribus aureis, sepalis anguste ovatis apicibus attenuatis, sepalo dorsali quam lateralibus duplolongiore, petalis subfalcatis, labello trilobato supra basim cum carina erecta fissa.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots coarse. Secondary stems erect, slender, 1-2,5 cm long, enclosed by 2-4 imbricating, ribbed sheaths with oblique, dilated, apiculate ostia with hispidulous margins. Leaf erect, elliptical, obtuse, 10-17 mm long, 7-12 mm wide, the round base contracted into a 1 mm long petiole. Inflorescence an arching, secund raceme 1.5-3.5 cm long including the peduncle, with 3-9 simultaneous, golden yellow flowers most of which develop capsules; floral bract infundibular, 1.5 mm long; pedicel 1.5-3 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; sepals glabrous, carinate, the dorsal sepal



Trichosalpinx vertex

Illustration: Carlisle A. Luer

free, ovate, concave below the middle, 8 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, the apex acute, narrowly acuminate, the lateral sepals narrowly ovate, 7.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, connate 1.5 mm, forming a small mentum with the column-foot, the apex narrowly acuminate; petals ovate, subfalcate, acute, 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, the margins irregular above the middle; lip ovate-trilobed, 3.6 mm long, 1.1 mm wide, the apical lobe triangular, acute, the lower lobes below the middle, broadly rounded, oblique, erect, the disc with an erect, cleft, longitudinal callus between the lateral lobes, concave above; column semiterete, 2 mm long, the thick foot 1 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *vertex*, "the highest point," in allusion to the very high altitude of the habitat.

ETIMOLOGIA: Del latín *vertex* "el punto más alto", en alusión a la gran altitud de su habitat.

TYPE: *COLOMBIA*: TOLIMA, epiphytic and terrestrial on the road cut, El Campanario, Alto de La línea, between Ibagué and Armenia, alt. 3.500 m, 20 Nov. 1982, C. Luer & R. Escobar 8488 (Holotype: SEL: Isotypes: COL, JAUM).

DISTRIBUTION: Colombia, Central Cordillera.

This species was found growing abundantly with several other pleurothallids at an altitude between 3.300 and 3.400 meters, but *T. vertex* seemed to be the only one that continued to be found as high as 3.500 meters in this area.

Esta especie se encontró creciendo abundantemente con algunas otras pleurothalideas a una altitud entre 3.300 a 3.400 m.s.m, pero el *T. vertex* parecía ser el único que continuaba encontrándose hasta 3.500 m.s.m. en esta región.