

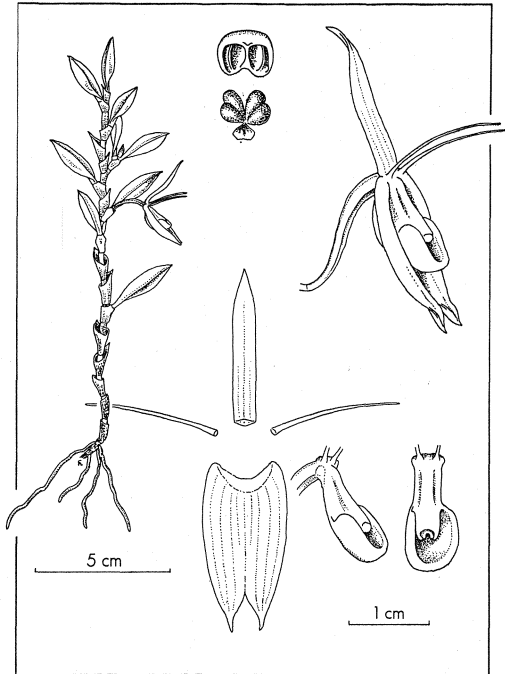
EPIDENDRUM TROXALIS, A NEW SPECIES FROM ECUADOR
(ORCHIDACEAE)

Carlyle A. Luer*

Epidendrum troxalis Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica, rhizomate repenti ascendenti crasso ramificanti laxe vaginato, foliis coriaceis ellipticis apiculatis carinatis ad apicem vaginae tubulosae portatis, flore solitario axillari brevipedunculato, sepalo dorsali lineari, sepalis lateralibus in laminam bifidam connatis, petalis capillaribus, labello carnosu suborbiculato concavo basi ad columnam connato.

Plant small, epiphytic, repent, to 30 cm long or longer, rooting at the base; rhizome stout, branching, elongating, 1-3 cm long between leaf-bearing sheaths and each segment partially concealed by 1-3 loose, oblique, tubular sheaths 10-12 mm long, the leaf-bearing sheaths similar, unifoliate, 5-10 mm long. Leaf coriaceous, elliptical, 20-30 mm long, 5-8 mm wide, apiculate at the apex, carinate dorsally along the midrib, the base cuneate, conduplicate, articulated to the apex of a leaf-sheath. Inflorescence a solitary yellow to purplish flower produced from the axil of a leaf-sheath; peduncle 1-2 mm long; ovary more or less sigmoid, terete below, triquetrous above, 15-17 mm long; dorsal sepal yellow or light purple, free, erect, linear, acute, 21 mm long, 3 mm wide; lateral sepals yellow, with or without purple suffusion, 21 mm long, united to within 5 mm of the acute apices into an ovate, bifid synsepal 10 mm wide, concave centrally, the sides revolute; petals yellow or rose, capillary, directed forward and parallel, 17 mm long, 0.75 mm wide at the base; lip yellow, connate for 5 mm to the lower two-thirds of the margins of the column, the free portion thick, suborbicular, concave, 8 mm long, 5 mm wide unspread; column semiterete, 9 mm long.



Epidendrum troxalis

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *troxalis*, "a grasshopper," in allusion to the appearance of the flower.

TYPE: ECUADOR: LOJA: epiphytic in cloud forest near the pass north of Loja, alt. ca. 3000 m, 12 Feb. 1978, C. Luer, J. Luer & M. Portilla 2541, flowers purplish (HOLOTYPE: SEL); Luer et al. 2542, flowers yellow (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Ecuador.

This unusual species climbs in the shelter of dense, scrubby vegetation in high altitude cloud forest. It was found growing with another unusual creeping species, *Pleurothallis schizopogon* Luer.

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