

Scaphosepalum clavellatum C. Luer, sp. nov.

Planta parva epiphytica caespitosave breviter repens, caulibus secundariis brevissimis teretibus vaginis tubulosis tenuis unifoliatis, foliis subcoriaceis anguste obovatis subacutis tridenticulatis base sensim petiolatis, pedunculo gracillimo glabro decumbentive ascendenti racemo brevi congesto, flores singularibus successivis interdum binis inversis rubro armeniis, sepalis inferno anguste oblongo apice obtuso incrassato clavellato synsepalis longioribus, sepalis lateralibus connatis concavis supra medium pulvinatis, apicibus breviter caudatis petalis ovatis acutis unguiculatis, labello decurvo oblongo apice rotundato minutissime denticulato in medio dilatato base subsagittato.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose to shortly creeping; roots filamentous, flexuous. Secondary stems terete, abbreviated, 5-8 mm long, with 1-2 thin, tubular sheaths, unifoliate. Leaf subcoriaceous, narrowly obovate, subacute, tridenticulate, gradually narrowed into a long-petiolate base. Inflorescence scapose, the peduncle very slender, glabrous, decumbent to ascending, 5-15 cm long, the flowers red-orange, non-resupinate, produced singly, or occasionally doubly, in slow succession in a congested, few- to many-flowered raceme, the lowest flowers more or less distant; floral bract infundibular 2-2.5 mm long; pedicel 2-3 mm long; ovary 2.5 mm long; inferior sepal narrowly oblong, longer than the lateral sepals, tricarinate, navicular with incurved margins, the apex dilated, thickened, obtuse to rounded, club-shaped, 11-13 X 2.5 mm, 1.5 mm wide near the middle; lateral sepals connate to above the middle into an ovate synsepal, 8-9 X 5 mm, the apices free, more or less obtuse with acuminate tails, 1-1.5 mm long, with narrow, thickened, yellow cushions above the middle; petals ovate, shortly acuminate, acute, the upper margin thickened, unguiculate, yellow with 2 red veins, 3 X 1.5 mm; lip oblong, decurved near the middle, the apex rounded, denticulate, dilated in the middle third, the base subsagittate, shortly hinged to the column-foot, the disc with a pair of curved, denticulate lamellae, 2.5 X 1.5 mm; column red, broadly winged, tridentate, 2.5 mm long, the foot 1.5 mm long.

ETYMOLOGY: From the Latin *clavellatus*, "little-clubbed" (dim. of *clava*, "club"), in reference to the long, club-shaped middle sepal.

TYPE: PANAMA: PANAMA: epiphytic along the Altos de Pacora road, alt. 650 m, 4 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer, P. Taylor & R. L. Dressler 748 (HOLOTYPE: SEL).

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: epiphytic on Cerro Jefe, alt. 1000 m, 2 March 1976, C. Luer, J. Luer & P. Taylor 740 (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Panama.

Prior to this report, only one species of *Scaphosepalum* (*S. elasmatopus* Schltr., syn. *S. longirepens* Ames) from the western mountains of Chiriqui, had been reported from Panama. Two additional species from eastern Panama have recently been found, one, tentatively identified as *S. microdactylum* Rolfe, the other apparently undescribed.

This species is similar to *S. elasmatopus*, but it may be distinguished by the conspicuous, club-shaped middle sepal which is considerably longer than the very short-tailed lateral sepals. The non-clavate middle sepal of *S. elasmatopus* is shorter than the lateral sepals. The clavate middle sepal of the Costa Rican *S. pittieri* Schltr. is also shorter than the lateral sepals which are described as being foveolate.

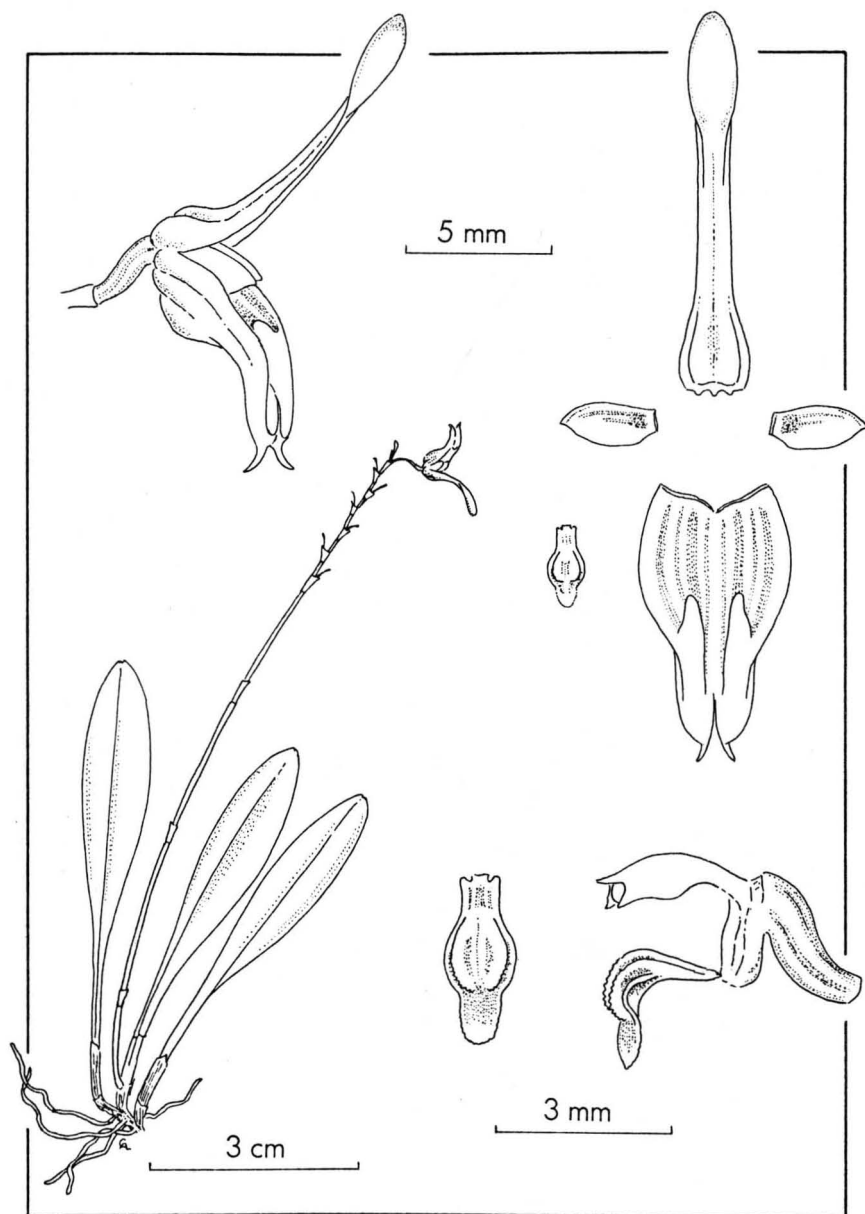


Figure 119. *SCAPHOSEPALUM CLAVELLATUM* C. A. Luer