

Scaphosepalum cloesii Luer, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named in honor of Patrick Cloes of Hasselt, Belgium, co-collector of this species.

Species haec *S. dalstroemii* Luer affinis, sed flore minore, sepalorum lateralia caudis semilongioribus et labelli hypochilio epichilioque anguste oblongis distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1-1.5 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, 7-8 cm long including a petiole ca. 3 cm long, the blade elliptical, acute, 1.5 cm wide, gradually narrowed below into the slender petiole. **Inflorescence** a distichous, successively many-flowered raceme, loosely flowered below becoming more congested above, up to 5 cm long, borne by slender, suberect peduncle, 6 cm long, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts acute, 3 mm long; pedicels 8 mm long below, 4 mm long above; ovary carinate, 3 mm long; **sepals** yellow, lightly and sparsely marked with red, carinate, the middle sepal ascending, ovate and concave below, 7.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, connate to the laterals for 1 mm, contracted into a thick, ascending tail, 3-4 mm long, 1.3 mm deep toward the apex, the lateral sepals connate 5 mm into an oblong, concave lamina 7.5 mm long, 6 mm wide, microscopically ciliate, the cushions triangular, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, the tails expanded, slender, verrucose, 4-5 mm long; **petals** obliquely elliptical, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide, with the apex rounded, with the margins broadly undulate; **lip** deeply oblong, reflexed above the middle, 3 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, the epichile oblong, obtuse, microscopically denticulate, the hypochile oblong, with a parallel pair of carinae becoming denticulate crests at the junction with the epichile, the base truncate; **column** semiterete, broadly winged above the middle, 2.5 mm long, with a thick, densely pubescent foot 3 mm long.

ECUADOR: Without collection data, purchased from José Portilla, flowered in cultivation at Hasselt, Belgium, May 1998, *P. Cloes 97828A* (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 18885.

This species is closely allied to *S. dalstroemii*, but it is distinguished from the latter by a smaller habit with smaller flowers; tails of the synsepal much shorter; and a lip with a narrowly oblong hypochile and epichile. In common, the two species share petals with an undulate margin, and a long, thick, densely pubescent column-foot.

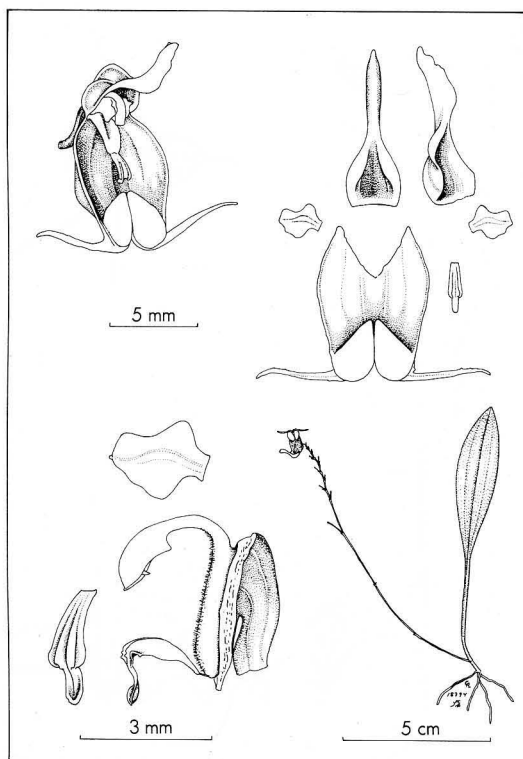


Fig. 9. *Scaphosepalum cloesii*