

Scaphosepalum globosum Luer & Hirtz, sp nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *globosus*, "like a globe," referring to the cushions of the lateral sepals.

Species haec *S. odontochilo* Kraenzl. affinis, sed flores multiminoribus cum sepalorum callis ovoideis globosis recurvatis differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 0.5-1 cm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, thinly coriaceous, 5-15 cm long including the petiole 2-6 cm long, the blade elliptical, acute, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the slender petiole. **Inflor-escence** a subcongested, distichous, successively several-flowered raceme, up to 2 cm long, borne by a slender, smooth peduncle, suberect to descending, from low on the ramicaul; floral bracts acute, 2.5-3 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary smooth, 2 mm long; **sepals** green suffused with purple, carinate, the middle sepal ovoid, deeply concave below the middle, thickly convex above the middle, the apex obtuse, apiculate, 6 mm long, 3 mm wide unexpanded, connate to the lateral sepals for 2 mm to form a broad tube, the lateral sepals connate 2.5 mm into a concave, bifid, oblong lamina 5 mm long, 3 mm wide unexpanded, the cushions ovoid, thick, convex, 2 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, with rounded, recurved, apiculate apices, **petals** white, oblong, oblique, acute, 3 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, slightly constricted above a thickened base; **lip** purple, ovate, subacute, 2 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, the margins deeply denticulate above the middle, the disc with a pair of tall, denticulate-fimbriate lamellae above the middle, the base truncate, minutely bilobulate; **column** green, suffused with purple, semiterete, slender, winged above the middle, 3 mm long, with a thick foot 1.5 mm long.

ECUADOR: **Morona-Santiago**: Cordillera del Condor, epiphytic in forest east of Chuchumbleta, alt. 1750 m, 21 May 1988, C. Luer, A. Hirtz, W. Flores, A. Andretta & W. Teague 13561 (Holotype: MO).

This species was first treated as a geographical variation of *S. odontochilum* (*Systematics of Scaphosepalum, Icones Pleurothallidinarum-5*). Although closely allied, the collection from the lowlands of southeastern Ecuador differs significantly from collections of *S. odontochilum* from higher altitudes in Colombia. The flowers are only half the size in dimensions. The thick, cushion-like dorsal sepal recurves to expose the ovoid cushions of the convex, lateral sepals that are also with recurved, apiculate apices. The entrance into the interior of the flower is consequently constricted.

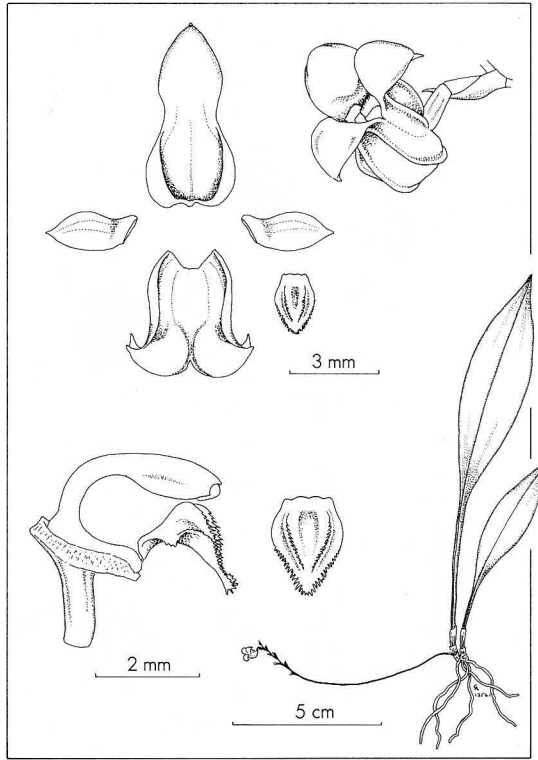


Fig. 10. *Scaphosepalum globosum*