

130. ***Stelis acuminata*** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *acuminatus*, "acuminate," referring to the sepals.

Planta mediocris caespitosa, racemo congesto multifloro folio anguste elliptico longiore, sepalis carnosus ovatis acutis leviter acuminatis, petalis trinervis et labello subquadrato late obtuso distinguitur.

**Plant** medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3-6 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath from below the middle and another 1-2 sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, 7-9 cm long including a petiole ca. 1 cm long, the blade 1-1.4 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, strict, slender, congested, subsecund, simultaneously many-flowered raceme, 12 cm long including the peduncle 4-6 cm long, from a slender spathe ca. 6 mm long, below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts infundibular, acuminate, 3.5-4 mm long; pedicels 1 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** yellow, glabrous, fleshy, thickest toward the apex, ovate, acute, slightly acuminate, connate basally, the dorsal sepal 3 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals oblique, 2.5 mm long, 2.25 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** purple, transversely oblong, transversely obtuse, shallowly concave, with the edge thickened, 0.75 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** purple, subquadrate, 0.6 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, shallowly concave anteriorly, with the apex transversely obtuse, the bar thick, with a large glenion, the dorsum with a center callus flanked by a smaller one on each side, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.6 mm long, 0.6 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Azuay**: above Cumbe, alt. 3000 m, 1 Mar. 2001, C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz, E. Sanchez & L. Suin 19763 (Holotype: MO).

This species, apparently endemic at a high altitude in southern Ecuador, is another in the group of species related to *S. aprica* and *S. schomburgkii*. From them it is distinguished by the fleshy sepals that are ovate and slightly but distinctly acuminate at the apex. The petals are broadly oblong and three-veined. The lip is subquadrate with an obtuse apex and a thick bar with a relatively large glenion.

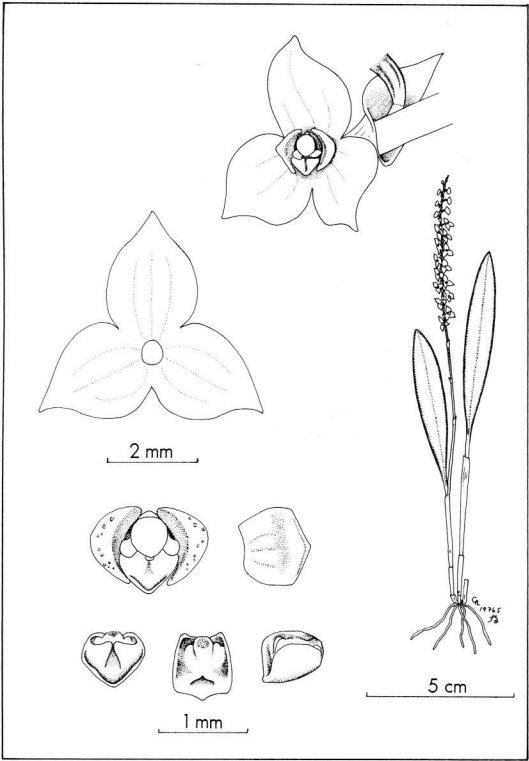


Fig. 130. *Stelis acuminata*