

131. **Stelis aernbyae** Luer & Dalström, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for Lena Årnby, co-collector of this species.

Planta mediocris, racemo laxifloro folio elliptico longiore, sepalis obtusis inaequalibus multivenosis, sepalo dorsali quam lateralibus duplolongiore, petalis crescentiformibus transverse carinosis, labello subquadrato supra tricalloso.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3-6.5 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath from below the middle, and another 2-3 sheaths below the middle. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, obtuse, petiolate, 8-9 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below to the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, loose, several-flowered raceme, 10-12 cm long including the peduncle ca. 5 cm long, with a spathe 1 cm long, at the base of the leaf; floral bracts short, tubular, acute, 4-5 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** expanded, unequal, green, glabrous, the dorsal sepal ovate, obtuse, 5 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 6-veined, connate basally to the laterals, the lateral sepals broadly ovate, oblique, obtuse, 3 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, 5-veined; **petals** purple, transversely semicircular, thickened and flat along the broadly rounded margin, shallowly concave within the margin, deeply concave basally below a thick transverse callus, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** purple, subquadrate, shallowly concave within a broadly rounded apex with a thick margin, 0.75 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 1 mm deep, the bar minutely with a small glenion, the dorsum sloping downward, concave with 3 calli, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Napo: wet forest between Archidona and Coca, alt. 1000 m, 17 Feb. 1990, *S. Dalström & L. Årnby 1364* (Holotype: MO), *C. Luer* illustr. 20472.

Vegetatively, this species from the relatively low land of eastern Ecuador is not distinctive. It is distinguished by a loosely flowered raceme that exceeds the elliptical leaf. The sepals are multiveined and conspicuously unequal in size, the laterals being markedly oblique and twice shorter. The petals are thick with a sharp, transverse callus. The lip is subquadrate with a thickly rounded apex and with the dorsum sloping acutely downward.

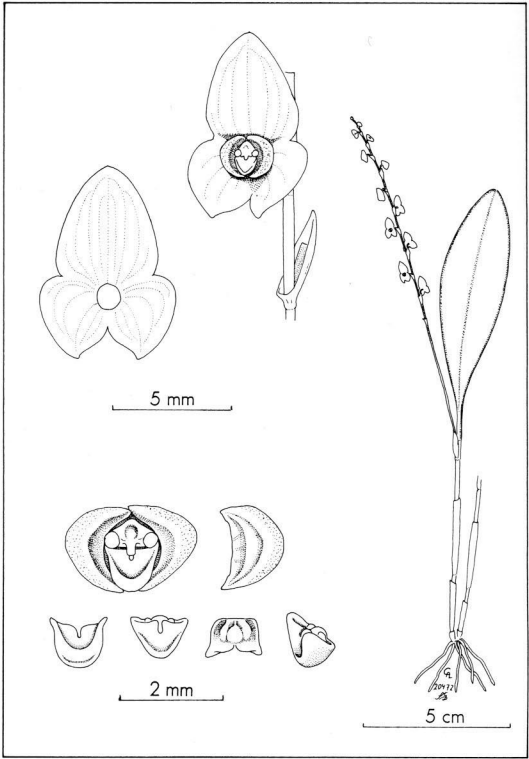


Fig. 131. *Stelis aernbyae*