

134. **Stelis bicolor** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Latin *bicolor*, "of two colors," referring to yellow sepals and purple petals and lip.

Planta parva, racemo densissime multifloro folio multilongiore, sepalis atroaureis glandulosis late ovatis, petalis purpureis suborbicularibus leviter concavis, labello purpureo subquadrato apice concavo obtuso.

Plant small, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots fasciculate, slender. Ramicauls erect, stout, 2-3.5 cm long, enclosed by 2 loose, tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, subacute to obtuse, 3-5 cm long, 1-1.8 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into a subpetiolate base. **Inflorescence** an erect, strict, distichous, many-flowered raceme, 13-17 cm long including the peduncle 3-6 cm long, with numerous flowers open simultaneously, with a slender spathe 1.5 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts inflated, acute, oblique, 3-4 mm long; pedicels 1-1.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** dark yellow, expanded, glandular-cellular within, broadly ovate, obtuse, subequal, connate basally, the dorsal sepal 2 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals oblique, 1.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined; **petals** purple, transversely suborbicular, the apex broadly rounded, slightly thickened, 0.8 mm long, 1 mm wide, 3-veined, concave; **lip** purple, subquadrate, 0.8 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, the apex broadly rounded with a broad apiculum, shallowly concave anteriorly with a superficial glenion, the dorsum featureless, the base broadly truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.8 mm long, 0.8 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Loja: dirt road west of Saraguro, alt. 3700 m, 11 July 2002, A. Hirtz, Ximena & Nicole Hirtz 8420 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 20203.

This species occurs in semi-arid mountains at a high altitude in southeastern Ecuador. It is characterized by short ramicauls; twice longer, subsessile, elliptical leaves; and a much longer, congested inflorescence with dark yellow sepals and purple petals and lip. The sepals are broadly ovate and obtuse, the petals are shallowly rounded, and the lip is concave anteriorly with a low, broad apiculum.

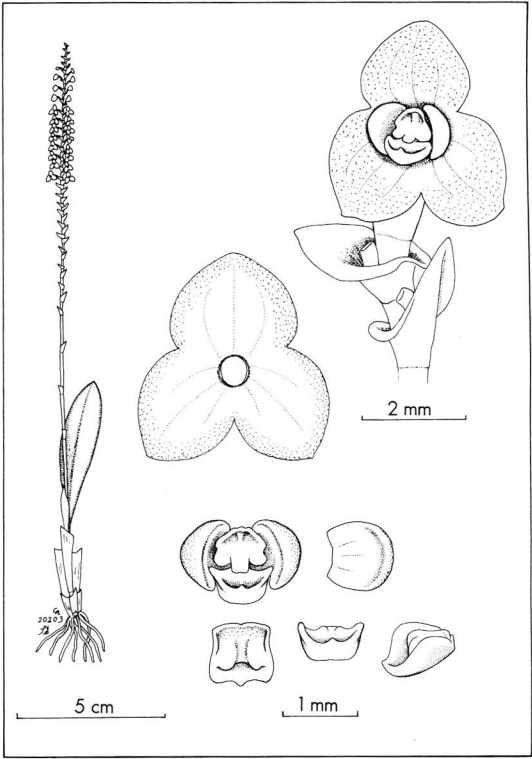


Fig. 134. *Stelis bicolor*