

Section **HUMBOLDTIA****106. *Stelis buccella* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.**

Ety.: From the Latin *buccella*, "a tiny morsel," referring to the minute size of the flower.

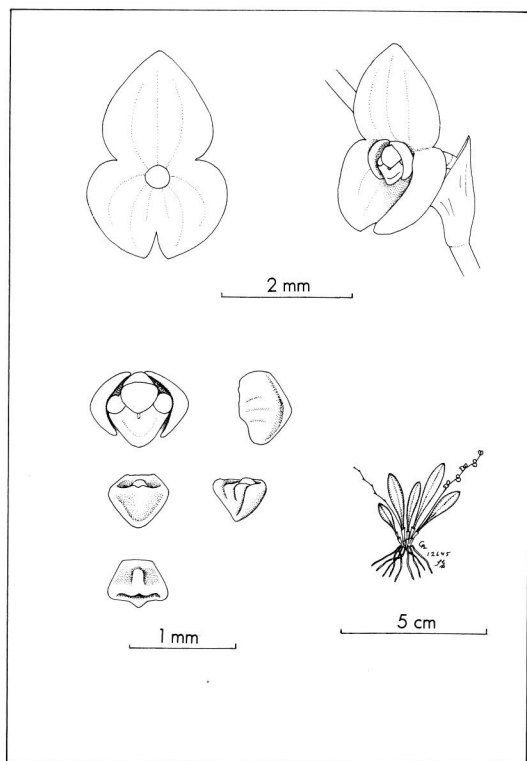
Inter species sectionis *Humboldtiae* habitu floribusque minutissimis, sepalo dorsali 3-nervato, petalis tenuibus trinervatis et labello obtuso dorso calloso differt.

**Plant** very small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 4-7 mm long, enclosed by a ribbed, tubular sheath, and another at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical-obovate, subacute, 12-20 mm long including a petiole 3-5 mm long, the blade 3-5 mm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, lax, simultaneously few-flowered raceme, 20-25 mm long including the peduncle 10-15 mm long, with a spathe ca. 2 mm long, at an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 1.5 mm long; pedicels 1.25 mm long; ovary 0.8 mm long; **sepals** dull green, glabrous with cells prominent, the dorsal sepal erect, broadly ovate, subacute or obtuse, 1.75 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, 3-veined, connate basally to the synsepal, the lateral sepals connate into a broadly ovoid, bifid, concave synsepal, 1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide expanded, 6-veined; **petals** green, transversely semi-lunate, thin, shallowly concave, with the apex broadly obtuse, with the margin slightly thickened, 0.4 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** thickly triangular, obtusely rounded at the apex, 0.4 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, 0.4 mm deep, the anterior surface shallowly concave, the bar with a small, marginal glenion, the dorsum shallowly concave with a low, round callous, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 0.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

**Morona-Santiago:** Cordillera del Cutucú, along new road east of Mendez, alt. 800 m, 5 Feb. 1987, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 12645 (Holotype: MO); same area, alt. 1000 m, 5 Feb. 1987, C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 12667 (MO).

**Napo:** north of Tena, new road to Coca, alt. 1100 m, 22 Feb. 1982, C. Luer & A. Hirtz 6938 (SEL).

This species, one of the smallest known members of section *Humboldtia*, is known from lowland, eastern Ecuador within the Cordillera del Cutucú. It is characterized by the very small clump of narrow leaves somewhat surpassed by a few-flowered raceme of tiny flowers. The dorsal sepal is three-veined; the lateral sepals are connate to near their tips into a broadly ovate, concave, bifid synsepal; the transverse petals are thin and three-veined, and the minute lip is obtuse with a round callus on the dorsum.

Fig. 106. *Stelis buccella*