

107. *Stelis cajanumae* Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: Named for the Cajanuma Range where the species occurs.

Species haec *S. purpureae* (Ruiz & Pav.) Willd. affinis, sed habitu minore, racemis binis plurifloris foliis plus minusve aequilongibus, sepalo dorsali reflecto, petalis crassis, labello crasso cum callo protuberanti differt.

Plant medium to large, epiphytic, densely caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 8-13 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath near the middle, and 2-3 below the middle and at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, subacute, petiolate, 10-12 cm long including a petiole 2-2.5 cm long, the blade 1.2-1.7 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** 1-2 erect, lax, distichous, simultaneously several-flowered racemes, 8-11 cm long including the peduncle 2-3 cm long, with a spathe ca. 4 mm long; floral bracts infundibular, oblique, acute, 4 mm long; pedicels 2 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** light brown, glabrous, the dorsal sepal reflexed from the base, broadly ovate, obtuse, 8 mm long, 6 mm wide, 5-(7-)veined, connate basally to the synsepal for 1 mm, the lateral sepals connate into an ovoid, concave synsepal, 6 mm long, 8 mm wide expanded, 5 mm deep, ca. 12-veined; **petals** yellow-orange, thick, transversely ovate, shallowly concave, with the apex broadly rounded, thickened, 1.3 mm long, 1.9 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow-orange, thickly subovoid, 1.3 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, 1.3 mm deep, concave anteriorly with the rounded apex thickened, the bar with protruding edges on either side of a shallow, central sulcus, the dorsum thickened with a broad, low, central callous, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical, the foot obsolescent.

Zamora-Chinchipe: Cajanuma range, south of Loja, alt. 2750 m, 21 Mar. 1985, *C. Luer, J. Luer, A. Hirtz & W. Flores 10740* (Holotype: MO); new road north of Loja, alt. 2700 m, 2 Feb. 1987, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 12593* (MO).

Loja: at the pass north of Loja, alt. ca. 3000 m, 12 Feb. 1978, *C. Luer, J. Luer & M. Portilla 2546* (SEL); Parque Nacional de Podocarpus, Nudo de Cajnума, alt. 2900 m, 21 Feb. 1985, *B. Ølgaard et al. 57925* (AAU).

Azuay: south of Cumbe, new road to Giron, alt. 3000 m, 27 Feb. 1982, *C. Luer & A. Pozo 7051* (SEL).

This species of section *Humboldtia* is characterized by a slender, densely caespitose habit with ramicauls about as long as the long-petiolate, elliptical leaves. Two racemes about as long as the leaf are produced. The dorsal sepal reflexes above the base and the synsepal is deeply concave with a deeply protruding cavity posteriorly. Within, the petals are unusually thick. The bar of the lip protrudes on either side of a shallow, central sulcus.

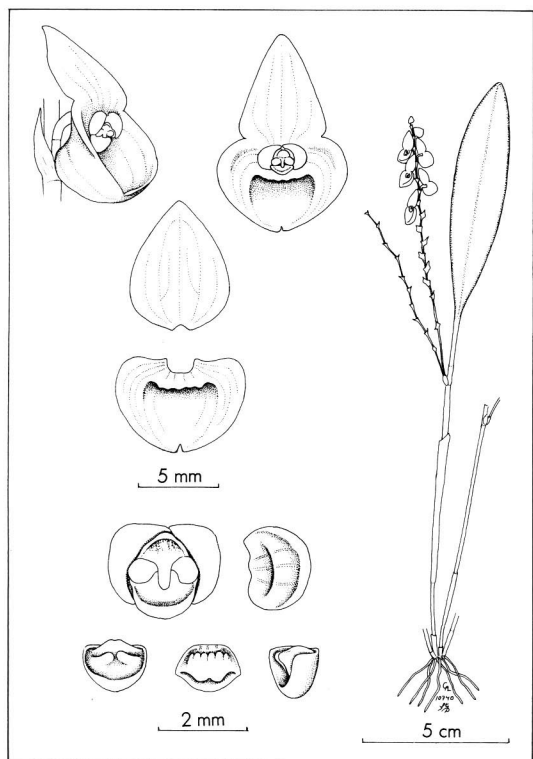


Fig. 107. *Stelis cajanumae*