

136. ***Stelis calantha*** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *calanthos*, "pretty flower," referring to the pretty, little flower.

Planta parva caespitosa, racemo congesto folio elliptico longiore, sepalis late ovatis subaequalibus, petalis crassis cum callo transverso, et labello parvo obtuso distinguitur.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 8-15 mm long, enclosed by 2-3 tubular sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-obovate, subacute, 1.5-4 cm long including a petiole 5-12 mm long, the blade 5-8 mm wide, gradually narrowed below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, slightly flexuous, subdense, simultaneously several-flowered raceme 3-4.5 cm long including the peduncle 1-2 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts acute, oblique, 2 mm long; pedicels 1.25 mm long; ovary 1.5 mm long; **sepals** dull purple, glabrous externally, cellular-glandular within, broadly ovate, obtuse, 3-veined, connate basally, the dorsal sepal 3 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, the lateral sepals 2.5 mm long, 3 mm wide; **petals** yellow, hemispherical, markedly thickened and broadly rounded at the apex, concave below a distinct, transverse callus, 1 mm long, 1.25 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** thick, subquadrate, 0.75 mm long, 0.9 mm wide, 0.5 mm deep, shallowly concave anteriorly with the apex rounded, the bar thick with a small glenion, the dorsum densely short-pubescent above the base, the base truncate, hinged to an obsolescent column-foot; **column** stout, 0.8 mm long, 1 mm wide, with the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Zamora-Chinchipe: Cordillera del Condor, east of Los Encuentros, alt. 1600 m, 4 Feb. 1987, *C. Luer, J. Luer & A. Hirtz 12624* (Holotype: MO).

Morona-Santiago: new road from Mendez to Morona, alt. <1000 m, 19 Jan. 1989, *A. Hirtz, A. Andreetta & S. Ortega 4143* (MO); east of Sinai north of Macas, alt. 1000 m, 12 May 2000, *S. Dalström, R. Burian & L. Jost 2447* (MO).

This little species, apparently restricted to southeastern Ecuador, is distinguished by elliptical leaves longer than the ramicauls that bear them, and a congested, sub-flexuous raceme of simultaneous flowers that only shortly surpasses the leaf. The broadly ovate sepals are dull purple, and the petals and lip are yellow. The petals are thick with a distinct, transverse callus, and the lip is shallowly concave and obtuse with the dorsal callus pubescent.

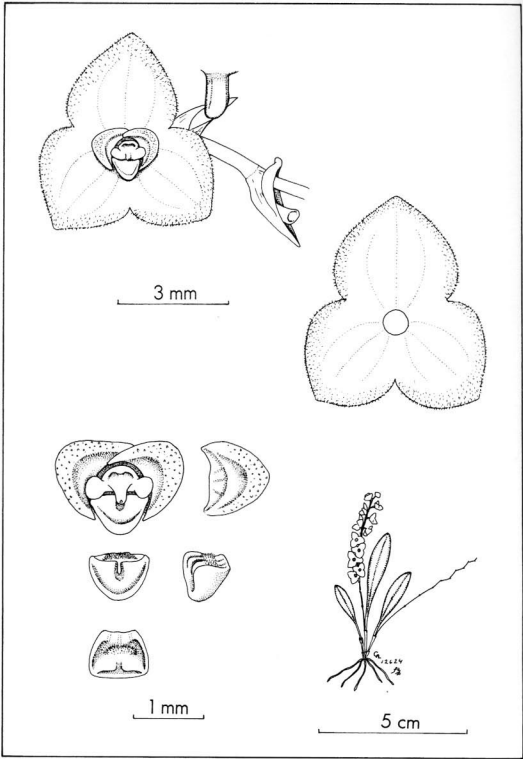


Fig. 136. *Stelis calantha*