

137. ***Stelis calolemma*** Luer & Hirtz, sp. nov.

Ety.: From the Greek *calolemma*, "pretty bract," referring to the conspicuous floral bracts.

Species haec *S. argentatae* Lindl. affinis, sed habitu minore, racemo flexuoso grandibracteato folio anguste elliptico longiore, et labello profunde concavo margine tenui integro differt.

Plant medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, stout, 5-7 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath from below the middle and 2-3 other sheaths at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, subacute to acute, 5-6.5 cm long including a petiole 1-1.5 cm long, the blade 1 cm wide, cuneate below into the petiole. **Inflorescence** an erect, lax, flexuous, several- to many-flowered raceme with most flowers open simultaneously, 16 cm long including the peduncle 6 cm long, from an annulus below the apex of the ramicaul; floral bracts oblique, acute, 8 mm long below to 5 mm long toward the apex; pedicels 5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; flowers light yellow-green; **sepals** expanded, pubescent within, connate below the middle, broadly ovate, obtuse, 3-veined, the dorsal sepal 4.75 mm long, 4.75 mm wide, the lateral sepals 4 mm long, 4.5 mm wide; **petals** transversely obovate, shallowly concave, 1.5 mm long, 1.9 mm wide, 3-veined, the apex broadly rounded with the margin thickened, without a transverse callus; **lip** thick, transversely subquadrate, 1.75 mm long, 2 mm wide, 1.5 mm deep, deeply concave inside the thin, rounded apical margin, the bar with a subconical, marginal callus, the dorsum flat, shortly pubescent, broadly truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** stout, 1.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, the foot obsolescent, the anther and the bilobed stigma apical.

Morona-Santiago: collected near Chigüinda, cultivated at Ecuagenera, 5 Mar. 2001, *C. Luer* 19736 (Holotype: MO).

This species, apparently endemic in southeastern Ecuador, is apparently related to the widely distributed *S. argentata*, but it differs from the latter by a smaller habit, narrowly elliptical leaves, and a flexuous raceme with large, prominent floral bracts. The petals are without a transverse callus, and the lip is deeply concave below a central, conical callus, and with the anterior margin thin and smooth.

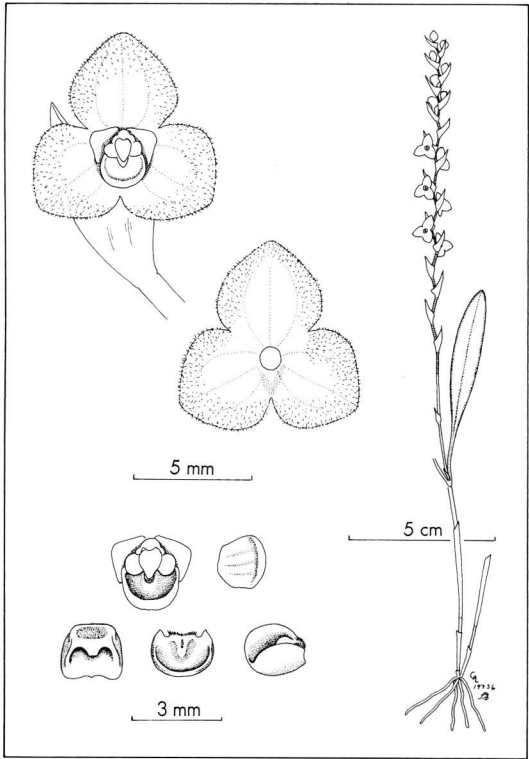


Fig. 137. *Stelis calolemma*